

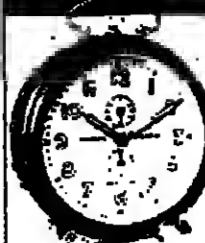
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ARAB TIMES

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Mideast policy criticised

Be honest broker, Zayed urges US

ABU DHABI, Feb 9, (UPI): Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, the President of the UAE, harshly criticised US Middle East policy and urged Washington to be an "honest" broker in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Washington should pursue an American policy and not an Israeli one, Zayed said yesterday in Lahore, Pakistan, where he met Pakistani President Zia-ul-Haq.

"It should adopt a clear position that would enable it to assume the role in the world, especially in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict," he said in remarks published today by UAE newspapers.

Resisted

The official Emirates news agency, WAM, said Zia and Zayed, one of the elder statesmen of the Gulf region, called for the convening of a UN-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East "as soon as possible."

The agency said the two leaders agreed the conference should be attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

The United States has resisted international calls for such a conference, favouring instead direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and excluding the PLO.

"The United States, as a super-

power, should play an impartial and honest role that would restore rights to their owners towards reaching a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian cause," said Zayed, in his harshest criticism ever of US support of Israel.

Resolution

Gulf-based diplomats said Zayed's comments reflected widespread Arab dismay over US veto of a resolution calling on Israel to apply the 1949 Geneva conventions on the treatment of civilians under military occupation.

The Feb 1 resolution that was supported by all other 14 Security Council members, had also called for the holding of the international peace conference.

Commenting on Zayed's remarks, the semi-official newspaper Al Itihad warned Washington's unlimited support of Israel and its "enmity" towards the Palestinian people was "eroding the US world prestige."

The United States, which already lost its credibility as the voice of freedom and democracy," the paper said in an editorial.

The Abu Dhabi-based daily said the UAE leader has "courageously and solidly" criticised American bias and Washington's "suspicious silence over Israel's brutal and oppressive policy against the uprising of the Palestinian people."

Murphy in Israel on peace mission

TEL AVIV, Feb 9, (Reuters): US envoy Richard Murphy arrived in Israel today after talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In a fresh American effort to promote Middle East peace talks, Murphy has met Israeli and Syrian leaders but failed to persuade Damascus to accept US ideas on settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The US proposals are believed to centre on limited self-rule for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Israeli political analysts doubt if the Americans will be able to find a peace formula acceptable to both Arab states and Israel.

In Cairo Murphy urged all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict today to work seriously for a Middle East peace settlement.

S. Yemen restores ties with Egypt

CAIRO, Feb 9, (Reuters): Marxist South Yemen restored full diplomatic relations with Egypt today after a rift of nearly a decade, the two governments announced.

"Keen on achieving Arab solidarity and using all potentials and efforts to serve the goals of the Arab nation, the two countries agreed to restore full diplomatic relations starting today," a joint statement said.

South Yemen broke ranks with its radical Arab partners in restoring relations, taking to 16 the number of Arab states which have formal ties with Egypt. Most cut ties in 1979 over Cairo's peace treaty with Israel.

South Yemen is the 11th Arab state to restore links with Cairo since an Arab League summit in Amman last November freed members to decide the issue for themselves.

Child maths prodigies

BEIJING, Feb 9, (Reuters): A primitive peasant village in Inner Mongolia is producing child prodigies capable of working out mathematical sums as fast as an electronic calculator, the official New China News Agency said today.

Children in a primary school at the impoverished Yihe mountain village have been systematically taught a special calculation method with startling results, the agency said.

At a recent demonstration, eleven-year-old Liu Guoqin mentally calculated the product of 856 times 758 in six seconds, it said, adding that most of her classmates could work out square roots, cube roots and other complex maths problems.

The village children have demonstrated their talents to foreign dignitaries visiting Beijing and act as accountants at local markets for their parents, many of whom are illiterate farmers.



A Palestinian boy pleads with an Israeli soldier as the youth is placed under arrest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reagan receives Fahd's message

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister delivered a letter to President Reagan today from King Fahd regarding the war in the Gulf and the continuing Israeli-Palestinian strife on the West Bank.

Aides said that Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Foreign Minister, reported to Reagan on his recent trip to Moscow during which he made an unsuccessful bid for Soviet support for a UN-sponsored arms embargo against Iran.

They said Fahd's letter also discussed the volatile situation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Saudi monarch has sent emissaries to Europe, the Soviet Union and the United States

seeking support for an arms embargo against Iran, but Moscow declined to make a commitment.

Reagan told Prince Saud that the United States would make a major effort to secure a UN arms embargo against Iran this month, the White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

"The President assured Prince Saud that the United States is committed to a major effort this month when we serve as Security Council President to secure passage of such a resolution," he said.

Prince Saud's visit to Washington is in accordance with the eighth GCC summit resolutions, Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said today.

Uprising death toll rises to 52 Israel warns PLO on Ship of Return

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 9, (Reuters): Two more Palestinians died in anti-Israeli unrest today in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A Palestinian teenager was found dead beside a street barricade in a West Bank village and a Gazan youth died in an Israeli hospital after being beaten on the head.

In both cases the Palestine Press Service (PPS) accused Israeli troops of killing the Arabs but Army spokesmen would only say the incidents were under investigation.

Although Palestinian unrest was less widespread today news of the death of 17-year-old Khader Tarazi in Beersheba's Soroka Hospital sparked fresh riots in Gaza City.

Youths stoned troops and passing vehicles in central streets but were dispersed by soldiers wielding batons and firing tear gas, witnesses said.

Beating

Tarazi was the third Gazan to die this week of wounds apparently inflicted by beating. The Army denied responsibility for the two other deaths.

The PPS said Nabil Latief Mahmoud Abu Khalil was shot in the chest by soldiers in the village of Atil, near Tulkarem.

Today's deaths brought to 52 the unofficial death toll compiled by Reuters of Palestinians killed in the last two months. The Army officially acknowledges shooting dead 42 Arabs.

Demonstrations continued in several towns and refugee camps in the West Bank, especially in Arab East Jerusalem, but there were no casualties reported from gunfire by midday.

The Army said the incidents were mainly minor rock-throwing and tyre-burning in the towns of Bethlehem, Halhoul and

Samoa as well as the Kalandia and Aida refugee camps.

Arab sources said there were also disturbances in Dahariya and Sa'ir villages as well as Amar refugee camp.

Police made several arrests in the Abu Dis, Azariya, Silwan and Sur Bahir districts of East Jerusalem as well as within the walled old city where they fired tear gas to drive off youths who stoned a Jewish house in the Muslim quarter.

The Army said the Gaza Strip was calm and 70 per cent of Arab labourers who commute daily to jobs in Israel went to work. Commercial life resumed partially in many Arab areas after a 48-hour total closure, the Army said.

Fears

Israeli commanders fear Palestinian youths may start using hidden firearms as the uprising death toll mounts, military sources said.

So far, protesters have relied on slingshots, catapults, stones, ball-bearings, bottles and primitive petrol bombs in confronting armed Israeli soldiers.

But the Army, worried by the appearance of crude home-made firearms on the streets, has begun to warn Palestinians to keep guns and grenades out of the conflict.

"Without doubt there are guns and other weapons among the Gaza population," said Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, who commands troops in the Gaza Strip. "We need to be prepared for the possibility they will try and use them against our forces."

Rafael Eitan, a former Chief of Staff who is now a rightist parliamentarian, said: "If they use live arms we know how to use live arms better. If they use live arms it will lead the Army to act like an Army."

Force may be used to free UN-men

SIDON, Lebanon, Feb 9, (Reuters): A Palestinian commando chief threatened today to use force to free two UN relief workers after talks with their kidnappers failed to win their release.

"Dialogue has yielded no positive results so far. We're left with two options — either the

two are released or force should be used and the captors' identities revealed," Abu Maher of the mainstream Palestinian Fatah movement said.

Colleagues of the hostages from the UN Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa) had been promised they would be freed at dawn today, Unrwa sources said.

Elephant 'graduates' play soccer

BANDAR LAMPUNG, Indonesia, Feb 9, (Reuters): One of the players tore up a goal post, another bellowed with anger when his team-mate was felled by a blow to the belly and a third contestant was a known child-killer.

The participants in this most unusual soccer match yesterday were 26 pupils who "graduated" from an elephants' "reformatory school" set up to tackle the problem of animals angered by the encroachment of farmland on their habitat.

In the televised match marking the start of a national Quran recital competition, the elephants used a ball three times the normal size in a 25-minute match in front of the 66-year-old President Suharto and senior cabinet ministers.

The chant of the Muslim muezzin gave way to the bark of the mahout, or elephant trainer, as the elephants became the star attraction at the opening last night of the week-long contest of readings from the Quran.



Three graduates of an elephant reform school in Indonesia playing soccer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hundreds of thousands of cheering onlookers thronged a new-built sports complex in the south Sumatran city of Bandar Lampung as the beat of 14 giant drums heralded the arrival of the

humbling elephants onto the floodlit pitch shortly after a solemn reading from the Holy Quran.

The only goal of the game came in the 7th minute from a

penalty kick. Goalie Mambo uprooted the goal post in protest, against what he considered an unfair decision by the (human) referee, who straddled the largest elephant.

Afghan peace pact near: Cordovez

Pakistan, Kabul 'agree' on pullout time-table

ISLAMABAD, Feb 9, (Reuters): UN mediator Diego Cordovez said today the Pakistani and Afghan governments had virtually agreed on a time-table for Soviet troops to leave Afghanistan.

He told a news conference the next round of the UN-sponsored talks in Geneva had been set for March 2 to conclude the settlement ending the nine-year-old Afghan guerrilla war.

Cordovez's statement at the end of his 21-day shuttle mission to the region, followed announcements by Soviet and Afghan leaders that the troops could

withdraw within 10 months beginning on May 15 if the settlement was reached in Geneva.

In the United States, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater commented: "It sounds like a positive step, and we hope it is, but we need to see the fine print."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the offer appeared new in that it fixed a withdrawal date. But he added: "What we need are deeds, actions, rather than words."

The United States maintains that a key question in a settlement is whether the Soviet

Union will permit self-determination in Afghanistan or whether it will try to retain power for President Najibullah.

Pakistan said today it will only sign an Afghan peace agreement at UN-sponsored talks in Geneva when a neutral interim government is set up in Kabul.

Foreign Office Minister of State Zain Noorani also said at a news conference that Pakistan wanted a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan within eight or nine months.

Noorani said: "Pakistan will sign the Geneva agreement with the legitimate government of

Afghanistan as and when the time for signing the same comes."

Pressed further on the point, he said: "Why do you come to the conclusion that a proper responsible, legitimate, broad-based government will not be in power by the time the agreement is ready for signature?"

But Cordovez said he felt confident the question of phasing the troop withdrawal had been "very well prepared."

In the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar, Afghan guerrilla

Found guilty

LOS ANGELES, Feb 9, (AP): An Army private who lied about why he flew into restricted airspace over President Reagan's ranch has been found guilty of making false statements and could face up to 10 years in prison.

Ralph William Myers, 33, was convicted of two counts of making false statements in a ruling yesterday by US district judge Manuel Real.

DAY BY DAY

WHEN a minister is changed, it is assumed that the under-secretary and assistant under-secretaries of the ministry will tender their resignations to clear the way for the new minister to select the people he wishes to have in these positions.

Automatic resignations make it easy for a new minister to bring in the "new blood" he feels is required to give his administration the necessary thrust.

This is a system recognised in the developed world, and Kuwait is a pioneer in introducing new administrative developments from which the people can benefit.

In most cases, anything new will certainly result in better systems to serve the public.

Zahed Matar

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light northerly wind.
State of sea: slight
High water: 4.00 am, 4.00 pm
Low water: 10.00 am, 10.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.35 am
Sunset: 5.35 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Ahmed: 18°C 64°F
Fahaka: 17°C 64°F
Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 20°C 68°F
Ahmed: 19°C 66°F
Fahaka: 18°C 63°F
Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 9°C 49°F
Ahmed: 12°C 54°F
Fahaka: 13°C 55°F
Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 8°C 46°F
Ahmed: 11°C 52°F
Fahaka: 12°C 54°F

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Criminal on trial

MOSCOW, Feb 9, (Reuters): The official Soviet news agency Tass reported today that an alleged war criminal had gone on trial in the Ukrainian town of Seldovo.

Tass said Dmitry Maslo volunteered for the police force in the Nazi-occupied Ukraine during World War Two and took part in executions of civilians.

"In 1943, when Soviet forces began liberating Donetsk region, he personally took part in the massacre of detainees in the police prison in Krasnoarmeisk," Tass said.

Smuggling

BEIJING, Feb 9, (AP): Chinese customs officials have confiscated \$1.15 million worth of cigarettes in one of the largest cigarette smuggling operations uncovered in China, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Five Hong Kong men, who were not identified, were arrested and a Philippine ship, the Dragon, was seized when authorities intercepted the ship off the coast of Fujian province yesterday, the report said.

Heroin seized

DIYARBAKIR, Feb 9, (AP): Police seized 76 kilograms of heroin and arrested 15 suspected members of a drug ring in this eastern Turkish city, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported today.

The dispatch, quoting narcotics officials, said police, acting on a tip, raided a village in Diyarbakir province and found some of the heroin hidden underground and the rest hidden in the houses of suspected smugglers.

The report did not say when the operation and arrests took place.

Noriega retaliates against drug smuggling charges

US forces must quit: Panama

PANAMA CITY, Feb 9, (Reuters): Panamanian military leader Manuel Noriega, infuriated by US drug trafficking charges, has called for the withdrawal of US military personnel from Panama.

Noriega, indicted in Florida last week on charges of drug smuggling and racketeering, said the charges were politically motivated and backed a Panama Defence Forces (PDF) call for the US southern command to withdraw.

"The US military presence here ... is geared to gain power. The military presence should be strictly Panamanian," Noriega said on national television last night.

"We reject the Southern Command. It constitutes more aggression against Panama," he said. He was surrounded by PDF officers and diplomats recalled from the United States and the United Nations after the indictments.

There are approximately 10,000 US military personnel in Panama, which serves as headquarters for US military operations throughout Central and South America.

Protection

A Southern Command spokesman said the force was also responsible for the protection and defence of the Panama Canal.

Before Noriega's address, a PDF spokesman called for the withdrawal of the Southern Command saying its presence was not contemplated by the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty.

"Their presence is a manifestation of the US interest in protecting its power in this hemisphere ... and is in violation of the neutrality of the Panama Canal Treaty," the spokesman said.

In Washington, the Pentagon appeared to reject the Panamanian call, saying the US presence in Panama was sanctioned by treaty until 1999.

"The Department of Defence is fully committed to the letter and spirit of the Carter-Torrijos Treaty, and that is the treaty that keeps the US presence there until 1999," Pentagon spokesman Major William O'Connell said.

President Jimmy Carter and the then Panamanian leader, Brigadier-General Omar Torrijos, signed two treaties — the Panama Canal Treaty and the Panama Canal Neutrality Treaty.

While the latter guaranteed the canal's neutrality after the year 2000, the Panama Canal Treaty governed the operation and defence of the strategic waterway until its handover to Panama on the last day of 1999.

The Southern Command spokesman in Panama said the treaty did not specifically mention troop deployment.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the department had no direct knowledge of any plans by Panama to oust the

US Southern Command.

The White House had no immediate official comment.

Denial

Noriega, Panama's de facto leader since 1983, has said he was being prosecuted because he would not cooperate with a US plan to invade Nicaragua. He has denied all the charges against him.

In his television address he said that since previous pressure by the United States had not worked, Washington was now using "indictment diplomacy."

Noriega has taken a firm stand against heavy US pressure to step down following unrest sparked last June when his former second-in-command, Roberto Diaz Herrera, accused him of drug trafficking and political murder.

Diaz Herrera was tried for sedition and sentenced to five years in prison, but was subsequently released and lives in Venezuela.

Senator Dole, with wife Elizabeth, waves to supporters after his victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dole, Gephardt win in Iowa caucuses

DES MOINES, Iowa, Feb 9, (AP): Republican Bob Dole and Democrat Richard Gephardt scored victories in the Iowa caucuses, regarded as the first major test of the candidates vying to replace President Ronald Reagan.

But the last night caucuses amounted to clear front-runner and produced one substantial surprise — the strong performance by former television evangelist Pat Robertson, who took second place among the Republicans, ahead of Vice President George Bush.

The Iowa caucuses are an imperfect predictor of how well a candidate has captured Americans' hearts and minds. The state's relatively small population of about three million is largely rural and involved in agriculture. Also, the caucuses are only a first step in the lengthy, involved process of choosing the state's delegates to this summer's national conventions where the major-party candidates are nominated.

But a victory in Iowa is widely

perceived as providing a candidate momentum to carry him through the rest of the campaign.

For Dole, a veteran senator from nearby Kansas, which also is mostly agricultural, the campaign acquired a "whole new focus" Monday when Robertson packed up 25 per cent of the vote with 70 per cent of the precincts counted. Dole got 37 per cent, but admitted that Robertson had shown unexpected strength.

Bush, who tallied 19 per cent, admitted that he was disappointed, but predicted the picture would change Feb 16, in New Hampshire, 1,600 kilometres away, when that state holds its first-in-the-nation primary election. New Hampshire is among 32 states in which delegates are chosen by direct election, rather than by caucus.

Rounding out the Republican fields were New York congressman Jack Kemp with 11 per cent, former Delaware Governor Pete Du Pont with seven per cent and former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who bypassed campaigning in Iowa, less than one per cent.

Record awards

LONDON, Feb 9, (Reuters): American pop star Michael Jackson, Britain's George Michael and the Irish group U2 have won the British record industry's top 1988 awards.

At a ceremony last night, Jackson was declared best international solo artist for his hit album "Bad", his long-awaited sequel to "Thriller".

The award for best British male singer went to former Wham star Michael and Alison Moyet topped the poll in the female category.

U2 was named top international group for "The Joshua Tree" while the Pet Shop Boys were voted Britain's best group.

Filipino communists willing to end bloodshed

Rebels want to share power

MANILA, Feb 9, (Reuters): Communist rebels have offered to share power with Philippine President Corason Aquino, saying they want an end to bloodshed after two decades of fighting with government forces.

Rebel spokesman said a clandestine broadcast last night that the outlawed Communist Party was willing to "take part in a collective leadership" with the government.

"We are willing to join the political mainstream ... and share power through a coalition government," said the broadcast.

The party made a similar offer during a six-month ceasefire in late 1986 when it offered to join Aquino in a coalition government, but the truce collapsed in January 1987.

Leftist candidates, some closely associated with the Communist Party, campaigned in

congressional elections last May and regional elections last month, but were virtually wiped out in the polls.

Message

Two rebel spokesmen, identified as Rafael Rojo and Ligaya Maguiness, and using a clandestine transmitter broadcast Monday night a four-minute message four times over four hours on a FM frequency monitored in the southern and central Philippines.

Military sources in the southern town of Dipolog said Monday's broadcasts were probably made from a transmitter on board a ship between the islands of Cebu and Mindanao.

Leaders of the armed forces in Manila say they broke a vital link in the rebel's communications network when they captured

several suspected top communist leaders last week.

Foreign secretary Raul Manglapus called recently for the Communist Party, founded in 1968, to be made legal. But he said the government did not share his view.

Before the ceasefire collapsed, the rebels agreed to government negotiations, but they had to play down their aims before being allowed to take part in the legal political process, such as running for elections.

Police accused rebels of the New People's Army, the communists' military arm, of shooting dead a government labour arbiter in the capital yesterday.

Three assassins, including a woman, shot attorney Esteban Calalang in the neck in front of the labour department building in Central Manila, they said.

Pakistan and Kabul 'agree' on pullout time-table

(Continued from Page 1)

leaders were sceptical of Soviet intentions.

"The time-frame is not the real issue," an official of one Pakistan-based guerrilla party said. "The real issue is the sincerity of the Russians about leaving Afghanistan."

Pakistan and Afghanistan have already agreed on most of a proposed settlement, which had been held up by what Cordovez called the "single most difficult problem" of the withdrawal time-table.

"There is a virtual agreement on the time-frame," the envoy said. "The gap is closed to a point where I think a specific agreement at Geneva is clearly foreseeable."

Moscow and Kabul had said the troops, which intervened in Afghanistan in December 1979 to prop up a shaky Marxist government, could withdraw within 10 months after the settlement became operational.

Agreed

But Pakistan, which plays hosts to about three million Afghan refugees and most of the Western-backed guerrilla groups, insisted that it should be done within eight months.

Cordovez said the two sides had also agreed the bulk of the forces would leave in the first phases of the withdrawal.

He said his shuttle, during which he went to Kabul from Islamabad four times, had produced an "agreed concept" and "what is left for Geneva is to work out the way in which this is going to be very clearly specified in the agreement."

The points already settled between Pakistan and Afghanistan are non-interference and non-intervention, Soviet and US guarantees to the settlement and return of the Afghan refugees.

The diplomats, who spoke in Islamabad on condition of anonymity, said some Soviet advisers were leaving without being replaced.

They quoted "reliable Afghan reports" as saying Soviet dependents in Kabul were selling used household goods or hurying "life" for undisclosed reasons.

"Local children reportedly are digging up the goods as soon as they are buried," one source added, without elaborating.

They cited "Afghan rumours" as claiming that Soviets had vacated some apartments near Kabul airport.

Legislator shot in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Feb 9, (Agencies): Suspected Sinhalese extremists shot and killed four people and critically wounded a government lawmaker in two separate attacks in Sri Lanka, police said today.

Three gunmen fired at Parliament member Mervyn J. Cooray at Panadura, 27 kilometres (17 miles) south of Colombo yesterday and wounded him in the stomach, a senior police officer said.

Cooray's driver and an unidentified boy were killed in the gunfire, the officer said. Cooray, a member of the ruling United National Party, was listed in critical condition.

The officer blamed the attack on the outlawed People's Liberation Front, a Sinhalese extremist group.

Fighting

The front has denounced the government for trying to make peace with Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland in the east and north of Sri Lanka.

The government says members of the front have killed at least 150 government officials and supporters since July 29, when President Junius Jayewardene signed a peace accord with India aimed at ending the Tamil insurrection.

Police said front members also shot to death two people and injured two others in an attack yesterday on a university hostel in Colombo. The raid was aimed at students opposing the front, police said.

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Renegotiate

Sri Lanka's main opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike said today she would renegotiate the peace pact with India if she came to power at the next election.

"We will have to renegotiate with the government of India because we do not like some of the provisions in that accord ... and make some changes," she told a meeting of the Foreign Correspondents' Association of Sri Lanka.

Valentine's Day is almost here!
You will probably call her just to say
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and will surely make her day or evening
with a gift from Al-Jerdanah.
Perhaps
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studded with rhinestones
Or ... a genuine Black Onyx necklace.
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WANTED
QUALITY CONTROL
MANAGER

Age: 35 - 45 years old.
Education: University degree in Chemical Engineering with
Mechanical Engineering background.
Language: Fluent in English, preferably with ability to speak
Arabic.
Experience: Minimum 8 years in quality control position in
Industrial Establishments, preferably in Can Making
plants.
Application with C.V. full address and phone number should be
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Al-Jomaih Beverage & Can Making Plants
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
P.O. Box 210 - Riyadh 11411, Phone: 4763824

Rebels want to share power

MANILA, Feb 9, (Reuters): Communist rebels have offered to share power with Philippine President Corason Aquino, saying they want an end to bloodshed after two decades of fighting with government forces.

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Leftist candidates, some closely associated with the Communist Party, campaigned in

Mudslides kill 131 in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 9, (AP): Army rescue teams joined the search for survivors and victims of mudslides that killed at least 131 people and left 6,000 homeless in southeastern Brazil, an official said.

Civil defense spokesman Bruno Ruy Avila said an elite 80-man unit was sent to Petropolis, the city hardest hit by six days of torrential rains.

He said floods and mudslides killed at least 104 people and left nearly 2,000 others homeless in Petropolis, a mountain resort city of 300,000 about 66 kilometres north of Rio.

Firemen, police and volunteers working since Friday dug through the rubble and the sticky brown mud in search of survivors, Avila said. Twelve people were pulled alive from the wreckage of collapsed houses, he said.

Rains

The rains caused the Quatadina and Bingen rivers to overflow, washed out roads and bridges, swept away cars and houses, and caused dozens of houses to collapse.

"Most of the houses were hill-side shacks, but there were good, middle-class houses that collapsed too," Avila said in a telephone interview.

Unofficial newspaper reports based on accounts from survivors said dozens more may have been trapped under the mud. But Avila said the reports could not be confirmed.

Rio de Janeiro state Governor Wellington Moreira Franco visited Petropolis yesterday and said the stricken area "looks like a war zone."

Petropolis mayor Paulo Rattes declared a state of public calamity. Relief organisations sent emergency shipments of powdered milk, blankets, mattresses, clothes and vaccine to the city.

Discover gold

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

AIDS could wreak social havoc, Arab expert warns

AN Arab health official warned yesterday that the social consequences of AIDS could be more catastrophic than the deadly disease itself.

Hani Wahdan of the World Health Organisation (WHO) told a Middle East AIDS conference that society's most productive members, young adults between the ages of 20 and 50, had the greatest risk of catching the incurable disease.

"The social consequences of AIDS could be even more catastrophic than the disease itself," he said.

"The selected loss of young adults in their productive years of life, many of whom support parents and children, is a tragedy for both their families and society at large."

Wahdan said AIDS was the most expensive disease the world ever had to fight and the cost was prohibitive for even the wealthiest countries.

The cost of treating AIDS patients was estimated at between 50,000 and 150,000 dollars each in the United States, he said. It was lower in many developing countries where home and family

care were greater, but still represented a staggering burden. AIDS has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, Europe and parts of Africa, and the WHO expects one million people worldwide to have caught it by 1991.

Wahdan said the primary modes of transmission in the West — male homosexual sex and intravenous drug use with contaminated needles — were less prevalent in the Middle East.

Research
But he said more research was needed into the region's sexual practices to determine how great a threat they posed.

The conference has drawn officials from 21 countries in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region stretching from Morocco to Pakistan. The region reported 78 AIDS cases as of January 31.

Jonathan Mann, director of the WHO's special AIDS programme, assured participants that AIDS could not be spread through touching, sweat, coughing, toilet seats or insects.

"Ninety-five per cent of our lives entails no risk whatsoever of being infected," he said.

The virus is spread through

sex, blood or from mother to child. An infected pregnant mother has a 50 per cent chance of infecting her baby, Mann said.

Wahdan said he opposed blanket screening of foreign visitors and tourists for the AIDS virus.

"These groups can be successful in spreading AIDS only if they can find people to infect," he added. "That's where we must educate our people."

Drug
Meanwhile, a drug already approved for treatment of fungus infections has been found to suppress reproduction of the AIDS virus and is being tested as a possible treatment for the deadly disease, researchers in New Orleans said yesterday.

In a limited clinical trial at Ochsner Medical Institutions involving four patients with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, preliminary results showed the drug Amphotericin B reduced human immunodeficiency virus levels in the blood of patients by 30 per cent to 80 per cent.

Researcher Om Prakash said those numbers were "encouraging" but warned the drug is still in an experimental stage.

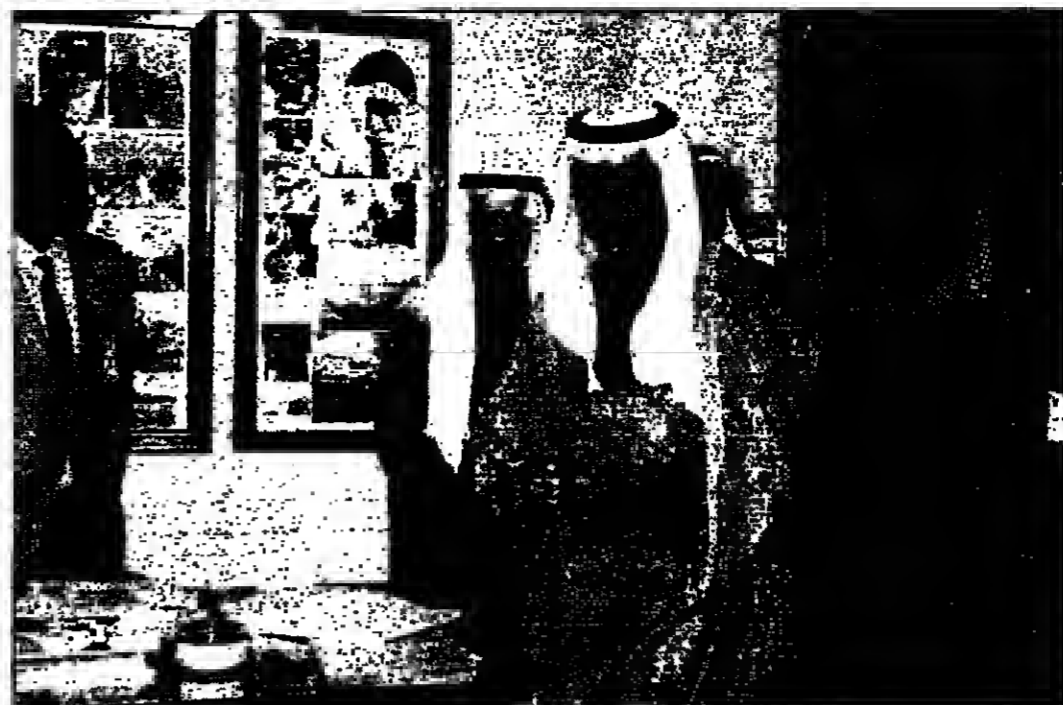
"If these preliminary studies are confirmed and if we can control the reproduction of the virus, we just may be able to help AIDS patients maintain immunity against opportunistic disease," Prakash said.

Studies
Additional clinical studies are in progress at Ochsner and one other centre to confirm and extend the preliminary observations, he said.

"This is not a cure for AIDS," Prakash said. "We don't want to create an unfavourable level of expectation in the AIDS population. Future studies will try to find out what the drug offers in terms of clinical improvements in an AIDS patient."

Amphotericin B is approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat fungus infections. In lab tests, the drug was found to protect lymphocytes from the AIDS virus in tissue cultures.

The drug appears to suppress the reproduction of the virus by binding to cholesterol in the virus membrane, or in the virus-infected cells, Prakash said. It is one of many drugs being studied at Ochsner in a structured search for anti-viral drugs, he said.



Kuwait's Information Minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah, yesterday visited the old premises of the ministry. He is seen in the office of Al Arabi magazine.

Kuwait imports KD 3m worth of beef per year

ACCORDING to recent statistics Kuwait imports KD3 million worth of beef annually and an estimated KD14 million worth of frozen and live poultry. Imports of frozen mutton total approximately KD10 million annually.

Statistics based on research conducted by the Food Security Industries in the Arab world show that the average individual in Kuwait consumes 106 kilograms of mutton each year, compared to the average individual consumption in Tunisia of 17 kilograms, Yemen, 106 kilograms, Iraq, 25 kilograms, Jordan, 31 kilograms and the United Arab Emirates, 98 kilograms.

These statistics relate to those of the Ministry of Public Health which show that 10 per cent of all deaths in Kuwait are caused by heart disease with high accompanying blood pressure and six per cent are due to a high blood pressure, making a total of 16 per cent of the number of deaths due to heart related diseases which result from the high fat consumption in diets.

Meats sold on the local market have a high fat content, especially sheep imported from Australia. Officials say that without proper inspection the imported sheep would have an even higher fat content.

The Director of the Employees Affairs Department at the Livestock Transport and Commerce Company Jassem Al Saquer said there is an obvious difference between sheep imported from Arab states, China and Australia. He said consumers would probably find that Australian sheep have less fat than others, adding that the company had several shops which sold a fine quality of Australian mutton.

Al Saquer added that the government fixed prices for sheep at 740 fils per kilogramme as a protection to consumers in Kuwait.

Houti visits Bahrain

KUWAIT'S Minister of Public Works, Abdul-Rahman Al Houti left on Monday for Bahrain on a few days visit in response to an invitation from Bahraini Minister of Public Works, Electricity and Water Majed Al Jashi.

Al Houti, middle-aged, is a Bahraini official who would touch on exchanging expertise and information that serve projects undertaken by the two countries' ministries.

Al Houti added that he will leave Bahrain to Saudi Arabia to take part in the third International Conference on Roads to be held there Feb 13 to 17.

Al Houti, leading a delegation from the ministry's engineers, added that the Kuwaiti delegation will submit three working papers to the conference on results of research lately done by the ministry's road research department.

Minister visits government press

KUWAITI Minister of Information, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah yesterday visited the Ministry of Information old building where he inspected the government press and Al Arabi magazine and met with its editor-in-chief and staff.

Sheikh Jaber also visited the new press building in Shuwaikh where he was briefed on steps taken for inauguration of the new building.

The minister was accompanied by senior officials of the Information Ministry.

Arab teams to attend lawyers conference

DELEGATIONS from the Arab Bar Association and General Union of Palestinian Lawyers are to participate in the Asian-Pacific Lawyers Conference due to be held in New Delhi on February 13 to 15.

Palestinian lawyer Mohammed Milhem told Kuna the conference's agenda includes important items including basic human rights, disarmament, development, the right of nations to self-determination, peace and Palestinian question.

Milhem added that he will submit to the conference a research on the present Palestinian revolt inside the Israeli occupied Arab territories as well as suppressive Israeli practices against unarmed Palestinian people. He would stress that such practices are in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention on treatment of civilians in wartime.

He indicated that the Palestinian delegation will urge the conference to issue a resolution that condemns Israeli brutal actions against Palestinians inside occupied Arab territories.

UAE may introduce conscription

ABU DHABI, Feb 9, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is considering introducing military conscription, one of its leaders was quoted today as saying.

Sheikh Saqr Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah emirate, told Al Fajr newspaper that the Federal Supreme Council had discussed the issue and "we hope that a conscription law would be passed soon."

Labour Ministry to speed up procedures

SHEIKH Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, praised the present laws and charters followed by the ministry and said that he would do his best to increase the speed with which formalities are processed. He added that he would follow the same policies in developing the procedures regarding permits as the former Minister Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Hamad.

Commenting on the establishment of a Higher Council for Sports and Youth Affairs, he said this issue had been referred to the Council of Ministers.

Sheikh Nasser praised the work of the cooperative societies and assured the public that he would not interfere with the authorities of the cooperatives.

Osaimi receives Battash

STATE Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi yesterday received director of the PLO office in Kuwait Owai Battash.

Following the meeting, Osaimi told reporters that they reviewed the situation in the occupied land and the Palestinian popular uprising against the Israeli occupation.

Bulgaria to second doctors

THE Director of the Middle East Department at the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry, Anton Bentiof yesterday hailed Kuwaiti Bulgarian commercial relations stressing that they are advancing on strong basis.

In a statement to a Kuwaiti newspaper, Bentiof disclosed that Bulgarian-Kuwaiti discussions are under way over providing the latter with physicians to work with the Kuwait Public Health Ministry. Seconded physicians and period of their stay in Kuwait will be decided after the visit of Bulgarian First Deputy Health Minister to Kuwait, due in the near future.

The paper quoted the Bulgarian official as saying that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries is more than \$15 million. He indicated that his country exports to Kuwait food stuffs, consumer goods, medical supplies and electrical instruments.

There are a number of agreements, he noted, between a state-owned Bulgarian company and the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company. Seven Bulgarian crew work on board and pilot Kuwait ships.

Row over withdrawal of health services from schools

THE Health Ministry's decision to withdraw health services from the government schools was a controversial one. A local newspaper interviewed Education Ministry Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khudari, and Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Nael Al Naqib, on the subject.

Al Khudari said the Health Ministry's decision had affected secondary schools so far, and the Education Ministry was still seeking, but in vain, to find alternatives to the schools.

He said he realised the financial burdens borne by the Health Ministry in providing the services, but would like the services to be continued at all ministry schools in order to keep Kuwait as an example to be followed by in the Arab region.

He said the withdrawal of the nurses would affect the school health services, and the Education Ministry was in touch with the Health Ministry to repeat or postpone its decision but in vain.

Reasons

Al Khudari said his ministry appreciated the Health Ministry's reasons, mainly the lack of courses and the imperative need for these courses to fill the vacancies in the health centres. But he

wanted to point out that these nurses were rendering an important service to students.

He said the health files of students contained social, psychological and medical information about the students, and asked who would update these files and follow up the students' health care.

He said that sending students to the health centres was not a problem, but the centres did not have files on the students, and doctors would not know what medicines should be prescribed.

Reorganise
About the possibility of instructing teachers in first aid, he said the ministry was considering this alternative, but no decision had been taken so far. But this was not a suitable solution, he said.

The Health Ministry Undersecretary, Dr Nael Al Naqib, said the ministry was planning to reorganise the nursing staff.

He said the plan included withdrawing nurses from secondary schools in order to put them at health centres and hospitals. Dr Al Naqib said the ministry was in a state of continued expansion to match developments. He said the ministry was considering

opening new health centres and these would require nurses.

He said the ministry planned to transfer a number of nurses and administrative staff to field work at hospitals and health centres, and was trying to take some courses from over-staffed centres for placing at new centres or at existing ones suffering from a staff shortage.

He pointed out that nurses at schools were only giving first aid and this could be done by anyone at the school.

He said the Health Ministry will cover all the school health services at health centres. Vaccination campaigns would be launched either at the centres or at the schools, and priority in such campaigns would be given to students.

Speaking about student files, Dr Al Naqib said there was duplication at the health centres and the schools, with students having two files — one at the school and the other at the centre. He said that one file per student was sufficient.

He denied any negative effect on students' health, emphasising that the ministry will carry out all the health matters of students without delay.

Dogs to be used for customs inspection

MOHAMMED Al Rifai, the deputy director of the Public Authority for Customs Inspection, said the authority would use police dogs for narcotics detection and to search for prohibited items among passengers' luggage. He added that studies have proven that these dogs significantly help customs inspectors in their work, particularly in finding narcotics, explosives and weapons.

The authority plans to use the latest equipment in its inspection process, he said, but added that the inspectors play a greater role than machines. Al Rifai said inspectors must be trained in the latest methods employed by smugglers around the world, adding that the authority provides a two-week training course annually for this reason.

He explained that large quantities of smuggled articles were usually seized at the land border centres, while the airport saw only small quantities of articles being smuggled. But he added that the airport customs inspectors

had seized five and a half of kilos of hashish in a smuggling attempt recently.

Al Rifai said the first really large quantity of drugs seized by inspectors was in 1985 when 400,000 narcotic capsules were found hidden in a truck. He added that it took 18 hours to inspect the truck.

Ministry taking care of illegitimate children

DR Latifa Al Rujaib, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour for Social Service Affairs, said the ministry takes care of illegitimate children at its welfare houses until they are old enough to find jobs and live independently.

She said the ministry helps them arrange marriages and to find suitable housing. The ministry helps these young persons before their marriages and continues to help them in times of need after they are married, she added.

Al Rujaib explained that the ministry allows only Kuwaiti nationals to adopt these children, requiring that they also be over 30 years of age, of good conduct and able to support the child.

Death sentence reduced to life

KUWAIT'S Court of Cassation sentenced a Filipino charged with premeditated murder to life imprisonment with hard labour.

The man was convicted by the Court of Appeals for killing a man, another Filipino, and sentenced him to death, after which he appealed to the Court of Cassation, which changed the sentence to life imprisonment with hard labour.

The convicted man was found guilty of killing his room-mate because he had disturbed him while trying to sleep.



Seventy-six members of the Japanese Ladies Association recently gathered for lunch at the Versailles Restaurant of the Meridien Hotel. Picture shows Mrs Junko Torige introducing active members of the association.

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PART 1/1

Security ties with Egypt strong: Sheikh Salem

AT the outset of his visit to Cairo, Kuwait's Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem said in an interview that Kuwait's Security coordination with Egypt is one of the strongest that Kuwait maintains with any Arab country.

"If we have established cooperation with a number of Arab and foreign countries, Egypt is on top of the list" that we closely consult with on anti-terrorism, Sheikh Salem emphasised.

His comments were made to the Egyptian daily Akhbar Al Youm prior to his departure to Cairo earlier today. The interview, which Kuna acquired an advanced text of, will be published tomorrow in Cairo.

Policy
The Kuwaiti interior minister, who up to last month was defence minister, told the paper that many Egyptian nationals work in the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior along with their Kuwaiti brothers. This phenomenon, he said, is an old policy for exchanging labour with an important Arab country.

There are no statistics available on how many Egyptians are working for the Ministry of Interior, but generally speaking Egyptians work in consultative, executive or administrative jobs and not in jobs related to security enforcement.

Messages

Sheikh Salem is scheduled to stay five days in Cairo for talks with his counterpart Brig. Zaki Bader and other high-ranking Egyptian security officials.

He told Kuna before leaving Kuwait that he is carrying two messages from the Amir of Kuwait and the Crown Prince to the president of Egypt and the prime minister. He did not say what was the nature of the two messages.

In the interview, the Kuwaiti minister said that he was going to Egypt in response to an invitation by his Egyptian counterpart. During his stay, he said, he will exchange views with Egyptian officials on various security issues, insisting the visit will enhance relations between the two Arab countries.

He also said he will attend the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Egyptian police.

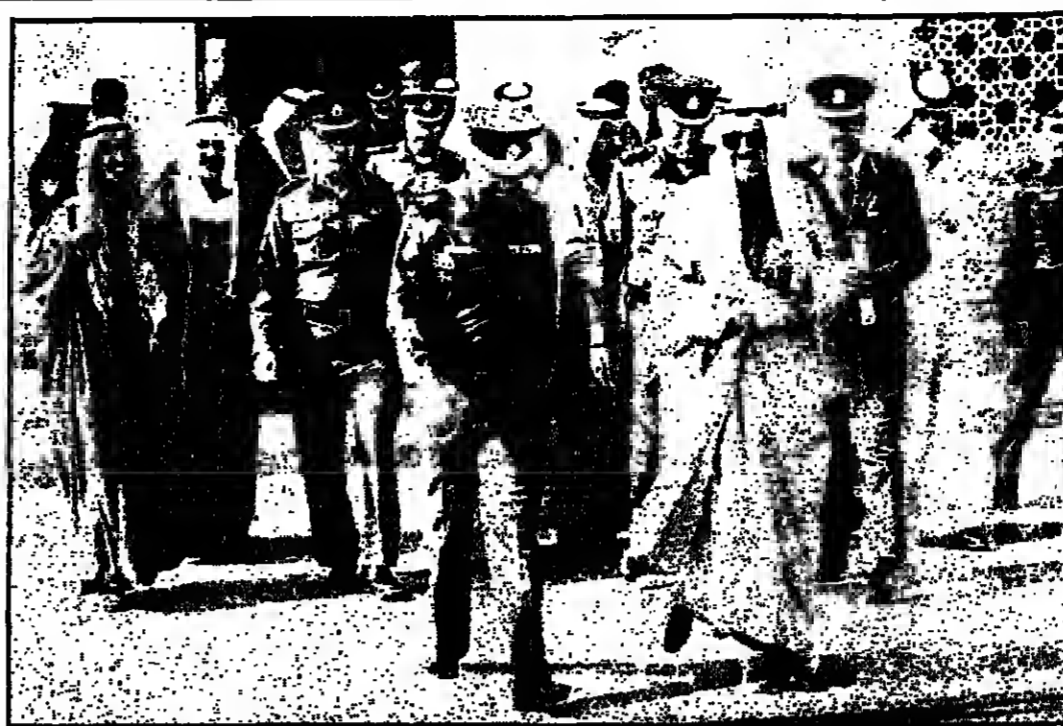
Asked about the stability of security in Kuwait, Sheikh Salem said that no country in the world can escape "terrorist activities" and Kuwait was a scene for sabotage in the past.

"I assure you that stability and security is completely controlled by Kuwait," he stressed.

He added that Civil Defence came as a new factor complementing security issues in Kuwait.

"Security in our country," the minister said, "takes into consideration long-term strategic interests seeking the upgrading of our security apparatus while eliminating any failures." Later Sheikh Salem arrived in Cairo heading an Interior Ministry delegation, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

This is his first visit to Cairo since the restoration of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Egypt and since he was appointed as interior minister last month.



Sheikh Salem at Kuwait airport prior to his departure.

Arab economists call for speeding up development

THE tenth Arab economists conference concluded on Monday by hailing the Palestinian popular uprising and calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war in addition to proposing recommendations to speed up pan-Arab development process.

In the final communiqué issued after the meeting the economists supported the Palestinian people's national rights topped by return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state of national soil under the leadership of PLO, their sole, legitimate representative and to resist the occupation forces by all means.

Gulf

They noted that the popular uprising has erupted in face of the growing Zionist campaign of discrimination and repression in the absence of Arab action.

They also called for ending the eight-year old Iraq-Iran war, noting that it had depleted Arab resources, threatened Arab security and obstructed develop-

ment efforts in a number of Arab countries.

They called for supporting Iraq's steadfastness vis-a-vis Iranian aggression and urged the international community to implement Security Council resolution 598 in-toto while urging Tehran to heed peace calls, sit around the negotiating table and direct resources to its role in the Gulf region's development.

The delegates noted that the civil strife in Lebanon, now entering its consecutive year should reach an immediate halt and appealed to the Arab states to extend assistance to Beirut to restore national unity.

The conference's closing statement said that the economists have noted with concern a slow down in the Arab nation's development process on the national and pan-Arab levels.

They further noted greater reliance on imports of foodstuffs and technology know-how which led to debt burdens.

Such indications in the light of expected development in inter-

national economy raises concern over development of the Arab countries' economies and calls for doubling efforts to boost production.

Industrial

In the industrial field, the economists noted that Arab industry could not cope with aspirations for a comprehensive social and economic development in the Arab countries.

Partitioning industrial ventures had a serious impact on development of that sector, they said and added that a qualitative leap in Arab industry necessitates an essential development of available circumstances.

They proposed a number of reforms to employ idle potentials and coordinate between existing industries and coordinating between light industries, encouraging joint industrial projects, improving training, maintenance and research programmes and strengthening joint Arab industrial institutions.

The conference was held under the patronage of HH the Amir.



Al Shaheen (second right) and other officials seeing the convoy off.

Aid convoy leaves for Lebanon

A CONVOY of trucks loaded with the first portion of Kuwait aid to Lebanon left Kuwait yesterday for Beirut.

The caravan which is comprised of 67 big trucks loaded with food and different equipments such as, medicine, blankets, clothes and school materials, includes 30 buses for transport of students.

The caravan was seen off by Undersecretary of Foreign Ministry Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen, Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Adnan Bedra and Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Saud Al Sabah, the Finance and Administration Affairs Controller at HH the Crown Prince and Premier's Office.

14 accidents

THERE were 14 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday.

Three took place in the capital, five in Ahmadi and six in Jahra. Meanwhile, a local newspaper reported that two youths died when their car collided with a school bus in Ardiya area on Monday. Investigations shows the car had been speeding.



Some trucks in the convoy.

Sheikh Mohammed arrives in Cairo

CAIRO, Feb 9, (Kuna): Bahraini Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa today arrived here on a few days visit to Egypt at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart Zaki Bader.

During his visit, Sheikh Mohammed will attend the inaugural session of the scientific seminar organised by the Egyptian Interior Ministry on major security issues.

Before arriving here, Sheikh Mohammed said in a statement to the Gulf News Agency (GNA) that Egyptian-Bahraini relations

are distinguished in several fields.

The Bahraini interior minister will discuss with Egyptian officials security issues and exchange views and expertise, indicating the meetings are the main approach to evaluate problems and challenges and reach understanding, GNA reported.

He pointed out his visit to Egypt aims at boosting bilateral cooperation particularly following Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's recent tour of the Gulf region.

Students hold rally in support of uprising

A RALLY was recently held in support of the Palestinian uprising organised by the executive board of the Kuwait Student Union. The rally, attended by several thousand people, began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, which was followed by a number of speeches supporting the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Bader Al Sumait, the head of the executive board, speaking at the rally, said that the Palestinians would not tolerate continued occupation of their lands and were willing to take any risks to reclaim their homeland.

He added that the uprising proved that the Muslim people could free the holy places and all

of Palestine if they were allowed to reach the occupied territories.

The Israeli soldiers, who are equipped with heavy weapons, are afraid of the stones from unarmed people, he said. He added that the uprising also proved that gathering under the Islamic flag was the only security and guarantee Palestinian had of success.

The head of the Islamic League of Palestinian students, Hisham Ali, said that the uprising was one of the continuous revolutions of the Palestinian people.

Sheikh Ahmad Al Qattan, in his speech to the gathering, called on Muslims to support the uprising by any means possible.

Focus on balanced population

KUWAIT'S Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said that the Higher Planning Council will meet today under the direction of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, with discussion focussing on the attempt to balance the population's number of Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis.

He added this was a very difficult issue to address and would involve considerable time. Achieving this balance is one of the most important points of the present Five Year Plan, he said.

Al Awadi explained that a balanced population and determination of a population policy are essential to development, economic, social and educational planning.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Dr Awadi emphasised the role of the Planning Ministry, which mainly involved the preparation of the national plan and supervision of the implementation of the plan.

Dr Awadi expressed his belief in the importance of constructive criticism which served one objective — to optimise performance and minimise mistakes.

He urged all ministry personnel to exert the extra effort to accomplish giant strides in the ministry's work output. The importance of acquiring needed expertise from foreign experts was also emphasised in his remarks.

Omani minister holds talks with Howe

LONDON, Feb 9, (Kuna): Omani's Minister of State for Defence Sayyid Bin Hamoud Al Busaidi conferred here today with Britain's Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on the latest developments in the Gulf, the Iran-Iraq war and bilateral relations.

The Foreign Office said that no matters of substance were raised during the "courtesy call" by the Omani minister.

He is currently on a three-day official visit to Britain as a guest of the ministry of defence.

Last night he held talks with British Defence Secretary George Younger centering on matters of mutual defence interest and cooperation in the fields of armed forces.

Faleiro returns

ABU DHABI, Feb 9, (Kuna): Indian State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Eduardo Faleiro, returned home last night after concluding a visit to the United Arab Emirates within a tour that also took him to Kuwait and Bahrain.

In a statement to Kuna prior to his departure, Faleiro expressed his satisfaction with the results of his talks in the three Arab Gulf states, adding that his country's relations with countries of the Gulf are strong.

In the course of his visits, Faleiro delivered messages to the three Arab Gulf leaders from Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi on issues of mutual interest.

Saudi Arabia warns against rioting during haj

RIYADH, Feb 9, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia issued its second warning to Iran in two days over making trouble during the annual pilgrimage to Makkah and said its forces would deal firmly with any attempts to create unrest.

"The government of the kingdom issued clear orders to Saudi security forces to deal immediately and firmly with anyone who desires to harm the sanctity of the holy sites" an official source told the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) last night.

More than 400 people, mostly Iranians, died in clashes last July in Makkah, Islam's holiest city, and Tehran and Riyadh have been trading accusations ever since.

Saudi Arabian Interior Minister, Prince Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz, said on Sunday: "Anyone who wants to make trouble will find a strong deterrent" and said Iranian pilgrims brought last year's clashes upon themselves.

Iran's top pilgrimage official, Mehdi Karrubi, said last month the Iranians will "demonstrate in a more resolute and determined manner than before."

Sheikh Sabah receives Cuban official

CUBAN Foreign Undersecretary, Jerardo Maszella had separate talks today with Kuwait Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen.

An authoritative source at the foreign ministry told Kuna that Sheikh Sabah and the Cuban official exchanged views on the works of the Non-aligned Movement, and Cuba's interest in the developments in the Arabian Gulf region.

Later the Cuban Undersecretary conferred with his Kuwaiti counterpart, and the talks focussed on bilateral relations and the Gulf war.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Undersecretary hosted a lunch in honor of the Cuban official who arrived in Kuwait Monday night from Baghdad enroute to Karachi.

Visit extended

CAIRO, Feb 9, (Kuna): Visiting Bahraini Crown Prince and Commander-in-chief of the Defence Forces, Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa decided to extend his official trip here one more day in response to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's request, according to an official announcement here.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received the head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdul Aziz Al Saquer and the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Faisal Abdul Razzak Al Khalid.

Sheikh Saad also received the State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Mohammed Al Mazidi, the Justice and Legal Affairs Minister, Dhari Abdullah Al Othman, the State Minister for Housing Affairs, Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan, the General Director of Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duail and the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning, Fuad Mula Hussein.

Cable of thanks

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received a cable of thanks from President of the International Islamic Charitable Foundation, Youssef Jassam Al Hajji for the attention and personal guidance given to the organisation's activities.

In his reply cable, Sheikh Saad appreciated the sincere efforts made by the foundation in serving Islam and Muslims and hoped it succeeds in accomplishing its lofty human and Muslim ideals.

Spreading the message of peace

By Lima Al Khalafawi

A JORDANIAN walking round the world said his goal was to "bring a message of peace to the world."

The intrepid traveller, Walid Al Amayara, who arrived in Kuwait on Saturday, plans to stay for two weeks before continuing his journey.

He said he will walk through 170 countries, but the number could be considered as 148 if the 22 Arab countries were taken as one big area with no borders and no visas.

This was the goal of all Arabs, and he appealed to them to unite their countries.

He said: "I expect no financial help from anyone. A smile is enough to support me during my walk."

Flags

Al Amayara said he will go to Iran and Iraq to spread his peace message. "I will speak to Khomeini and persuade him to stop the war," he said, adding there may be no success in his failure. He will try to get visas to Iraq and Iran and make efforts to convince both countries to declare 'peace on' "Islamic and humanitarian reasons".

He said he will try to meet "presidents and kings" in the Arab world. His next stop will be the Basra war front, where he hopes to spread his peace message and record the reaction.

He carries three flags. One is of his country, one of the country he is passing through, and the other is a peace flag.

His journey is divided into three stages.

The first stage is the Arab countries and Africa, the second



Al Amayara warms himself before a coal fire.

is to Europe and the United States, the third is to Australia and the Far East. He hopes to complete the trip in May 1995.

He said his trip so far had taught him patience. He has lost 40 kilos during his walk, has covered 4,500 kilometres, and has visited Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

He appealed to Arab men to follow his example.

Al Amayara said he underwent hard and difficult training for his journey, that included eating snakes, climbing mountains and moving through sand and swamps. He also studied about weather conditions, the use of maps and the movements of moon and stars.

He collected 40,000 Jordanian dinars from his family and his work place for his trip.

Al Amayara, who comes from a bedouin family, holds a masters degree in tourism and hotel management.

Egyptian military team visits UAE

ABU DHABI, Feb 9, (Reuters): Senior Egyptian armed forces officers are visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to discuss military cooperation in the second such visit to a Gulf Arab state since many Arab nations resumed ties with Cairo last year.

Commander-in-Chief of Naval Forces Rear Admiral Mohammed Sbarif Al Sadeq said on arrival on Monday the trip was to boost military ties.

Egypt's Ambassador Ahmed Qadri Abdul Mejid told Reuters the three to four day visit

"will involve talks on military cooperation and a tour of the UAE sea ports" He would not elaborate on the purpose of the ports tour.

The emirates official news agency Wam said the visiting officers met the UAE's senior Army officers today.

Egyptian Defence Minister, Field Marshall Abdul Halim Abu Gazala, led a military delegation to Kuwait in December in the wake of Iranian missile attacks on Kuwait.

New Security Base opens



Sheikh Jaber Al Abdulla (third left) watches a demonstration of a security equipment after opening the new Security Base.

AL Mulla Security Services, which operates in association with Securicor International UK yesterday inaugurated its new Security Base in Ardiya. The Base was officially opened by Sheikh Jaber Al Abdulla Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Capital Governor. He was welcomed to the premises by the chairman of Securicor International, Nageeb Abdullah Al Mulla, chairman of the Al Mulla Group.

With a force of over 150 highly trained guards, a fleet of specially built and bullet-proof vehicles and all of the advanced technology of the new Security Base the company leads the field in

security services in Kuwait. The new base has electronic doors which can only be opened from inside a special fortress-like room.

The armoured truck delivering cash to the vaults then enters a secure area where it is unloaded directly into the vaults. The Base is protected by the latest sophisticated intruder alarm systems, closed circuit television and is in constant radio contact with the fleet of armoured trucks.

Kuwait's Central Bank and most of commercial banks in the country subscribe to the service, as well as hotels and commercial and industrial premises.

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VIDEO CORNER

Gripping yarn to beat the blues

By Gail Seery

RIPPING YARNS is not many sense a new video. It, or rather the three separate television programmes of that name which comprise this tape, was originally shown in Britain in 1975, and the video has been on the shelves in Kuwait for some time. However, if perhaps you missed out on the series at the time, or are feeling a little down with the post new year blues (in my case these usually last well into November), or just want your memory refreshed, *Ripping Yarns* is certainly worth a look.

I had thought I was familiar with the classic series, remembering classic like *Across the Andes* by Frog, attempts by extremely rich young members of the Raj to escape and open little ebemists shops, and stories of fateful loves and mass murders, but in fact, two of the three stories on this tape were completely new to me.

The best by far was Tomkinson's *Schooldays*, which exposes the horrors of public school life, where senior boys are allowed to nail the junior boys to the wall once a year, and where all new boys have to go through an initiation ceremony — a fight with a grizzly bear. Tomkinson, whose father is making his 146th expedition to the Pole, is determined to escape. "I was 17 miles from Greybridge when the school puma caught me."

Again, *Escape from Stalag Luft 112* is a splendid spoof of all those similar escape movies. Here the hero "escaped" once a day and twice a day at weekends. "He has a major problem in that everyone else likes the prison camp and refuses to escape with him. He is transferred to the most security conscious prison camp of all (escaping 11 times en route) where he learns that things there are not what he would expect, and because he refuses

to bring his plan for making a glider entirely out of toilet rolls before the escape committee which convenes four months ahead, he is treated as something of an outsider.

It comes as something of a shock to him to be woken one morning and told that every single one of the other prisoners has escaped without him.

He is placed under close guard, as he is the only prisoner left, and watched at all times. He is woken up one night by his guards — who want his help to escape. "We can't stand it any more," they tell him. Hereafter to help them on the grounds that it would be collaboration. Next morning all the guards have escaped and he is alone in the camp. He shuts the gates and finishes his glider, makes a series of tunnels, and a catapult capable of propelling him 200 miles over occupied territory. He is so involved in these exploits that he becomes "the

only prisoner never to have escaped from Stalag Luft 112 B."

The trio is completed with *Golden Gordon*, the story of a football fanatic who is obsessed by the declining fortunes of his side. His wife remonstrates with him for having killed his only child "Barnstoneworth". "He's got another name!" Gordon argues; "Yes, 'United'."

The series was written by Michael Palin and Terry Jones, with the former taking every role he can, and cameo performances by many well known actors and comedians, including fellow Monty Python star, John Cleese.

A trip a little further back to Monty Python and the Holy Grail is less rewarding. This, their first effort at a real film with a story is less dated than simply unimpressive. Like most Monty Python offerings, it is very funny in places, but horrendously boring in others.

Frothy romance

By Shaun Seekins

ROMAN Holiday is a modern day fairy tale starring Tom Conti and Catherine Oxenberg. Set in Rome it tells the story of a young Princess on an official visit who decides that enough is enough and breaks out of her closely guarded world to spend a day with the ordinary people.

After a gruelling round of official engagements, a doctor is called to give her a sedative, but before it takes effect she decides to go out for a walk. However, she doesn't get very far before the drug takes effect and Conti finds her sleeping on a park bench. Conti plays an easy going journalist who likes the bottle a little too much but obviously still has the instincts of a Sir Galahad as he takes her home to his flat to sleep off what he thinks is a hangover. When she wakes up the next morning her first thought is "Where am I?" then "what did I do to me?" Nothing, it turns out. So suitably reassured she decides to take the day off and see Rome from the other side.

When the light dawns on Conti and he realises what a story he has in his hand he frantically tries to contact his cameraman so that he can take a pictorial record of the event. But then the quandary, will he be able to sell the story or has he fallen a little bit in love with the Princess. A light frothy version of the 1953 Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn hit, it is a good bit of escapism with not a bad word or nasty person in sight.

John Sayles's *Matewan* is altogether different. Set in the early 1920's it tells the story of one town's struggle to throw off the oppression of a mining company that controls every economic aspect of its inhabitants' lives. It is based on actual incidents which set off a series of "wars" between striking miners and owners in West Virginia and eventually paved the way for the United Mine



Tom Conti and Catherine Oxenberg in Roman Holiday.

Workers' union, the coal industry.

The technical aspects of the film are excellent — particularly Haskell Wexler's cinematography — the acting particularly by Chris Cooper as the placid "red" union organiser and James Earl Jones as a level headed miner are also very good. But the film suffers from the good guy vs bad guy motif which is unbelievably out and dated. The bad guys are too dastardly, relishing such things as the evictions of widows from their pitiful homes just for the sport of it. Sayles himself makes a brief appearance as a fire-and-brimstone Baptist minister condemning reds, socialists and unionisers. Indeed the red scare aspect of US anti-unionism was a powerful weapon of big business and if Sayles had developed this theme more, instead of dwelling on the sadistic tendencies of the company men, it might have been a more riveting film. Despite the positive critical response that *Matewan* is enjoy-

ing, union-oriented pictures have rarely done well at the box office and I don't think that this film will change the pattern.

Deadly Care starts by telling us that one nurse a day dies in the United States through narcotics abuse. Starring Cheryl Ladd as the founder of what we are repeatedly told is the world's greatest cardio-vascular intensive care units, she is assisted by top heart surgeon Dr. Mike Keefe (Jason Miller). At the beginning this means we are belaboured about the cars with phrases like "aortic aneurysm", and within seconds of Nurse Halloran going about her duties we see her swallowing pills by the fistful. Does this mean she has a problem? Her sister dies of alcoholism and inspired, no doubt, by familial devotion Nurse Halloran starts drinking bourbon by the bucket. Now she has two problems. When she starts making mistakes at work she gets all three problems in a row on the fruit machine of life and wins the jackpot — a trip to a

detoxification unit.

Fortunately through the love of various friends she fights her way back to what could almost be described as a normal life. A decidedly worthy, very dramatic film with a fine performance by Cheryl Ladd.

The latest family film by Walt Disney Benji The Hunted has just been released together with a mixed bag from British television, *Damon and Debbie* tells of a young girl who runs away from home with her boy friend and of her father's frantic attempts to trace them. The *Two Ronnies* star in the best of their comic sketches over a twenty year period and Yes, Prime Minister continues. Agatha Christie's 4.50 from Paddington is a new Miss Marple mystery and Top of the Pops, February, is now available.

The above films are by courtesy of Video Nauf (2432809), Video Club (5724372) and VFI, Safeway, Farwania.

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

KLT Kuwait Little Theatre (KLT) will hold auditions for the summer musical at 7.30 pm on Feb. 16 and 19 at its premises in Alhamdi. Backstage helpers also needed. For further details ring 3985246 after 5 pm.

Kuwait Players "Do Not Disturb," an adult comedy written by Michael Perceve will be performed at 8 pm on Feb 22, 23, 24 and 25 at the Universal American School. For reservations ring 5613465; 5745838; 5618244. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Kuwait Players-Auditions Final casting for the play *Stepping Out*, directed by Ken Winston, takes place at Universal American School at 3 pm on Feb 11, Thursday. One more non-dancing role for an actress who can play the piano. Those interested attend auditions or call Ken Winston — 5385075 or Glenis, producer, 5730641.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Rondels Aiden J. Harvey (British TV comedy impressionist) will be the special guest at the Kuwait Rondels 1988 Gala Annual Ball at Messiah Beach Hotel on Feb 11, Thursday. Tables available for six, 10 or 12 peo-

ple. Dress formal, lounge suit. Tickets — KD 10. For reservations ring Paul Richards — 5337597; Martin Caechem — 4745916.

Kuwait Society for Handicapped An open souk featuring everything from silks to groceries, silverware to rugs and toys, is being held at the premises of the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, behind Andalus Cinema, Cairo St. Open daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 3 to 7 pm, until Feb 15.

Danish Meeting All Danes are invited to the "Fastelavn" party on Feb 12, 1 pm, at the Gazelle Club. For reservations contact Connie — 3947693; Karen-Marie — 3946725. Feb 9 is the last date for registration.

Kuwait Nomads Quiz Night Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club Quiz Night on Wednesday, Feb 17. Teams of four, must include one lady. For details and team registration contact John Evans (5339867) or Tony Sole (5330507) by Feb 15.

Photography contest Kapilku will hold a photography contest for Filipinos in Kuwait. Entry forms are available from all Filipino restaurants and the Philippines Embassy. Last date to enter the competition, which is open only to members of Kapilku, is March 1. For fur-

ther details contact Dick Orense — 4877793.

Flaskik will hold a Valentines dinner-musical at 6.30 pm Feb 12, Friday, at Al Dira Ballroom, Kamada Al Salam Hotel. Free transport will be provided from the Church from 6 pm. For tickets ring 2439451, Mabuhay or Lord's restaurant.

ACT Any Texans or adopted Texans interested in helping with ACT's March 3 Texas Independence Day Party please contact 5725071; 2528366; 5639204.

Music Concert '88 Aadeb, Lynley (vocals), Amarr (guitar/vocals), Aasim (keyboard-synthesizer), Mur-taza (bass guitar) and Raza (drums) will participate in the Music Concert '88, due to be held on Feb 19 at Al Andalus Cinema. They will present a variety of songs by Duran Duran, Europe, Bonjovi and others. Tickets available at Al Andalus box office. For details contact — 5618482 or 3983165 (Aadeb).

Kuwait Welsh Society Annual St. David's Day dinner at Messiah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. For tickets and further details phone 4874548; 3910875; 3912384.

CINEMA

Films and the Law The film *The Law* is the title given to an American film festival, which will be held from

Feb 13 to 17 at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The following films will be shown on: Feb 13: Mr Smith Goes to Washington; Feb 14: Modern Times; Feb 15: The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman; Feb 16: All the King's Men; and Feb 17: The Best Man.

All shows begin at 7.30 pm sharp. Children are not allowed inside the auditorium.

The festival has been organised by the American Embassy in tandem with Kuwait Cine Club.

British Council The Young Sherlock Holmes and the Pyramid of Fear, a Steven Spielberg production, will be shown on Feb 13/14 at 6.30 pm at the British Council in Mansouriya. Duration: 105 minutes.

Two children's films — *Five Go To Mystery Moor* and *Five Go Off To Camp*, based on Enid Blyton's Famous Five books, will be shown at 6 pm on Feb 10 (Wednesday) and at 10.30 am on Feb 11 (Thursday). Duration: 71 minutes.

Admission free but it is advisable to make bookings. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.10 am
Zuhr	12.02
Asr	3.11 pm
Maghreb	5.34
Isha	6.52



Aiden J. Harvey: Impressionist and comedian

British comic at charity ball

BRITISH impressionist and comedian, Aiden J. Harvey, will be the chief guest and star at a fund-raising ball organised by the Kuwait Rondels for several charities.

The Rondels' Annual Ball, 1988, will be held on Thursday and Friday at the Messiah Beach Hotel.

The Rondels have held many parties over the years to raise funds for several international children's charities around the world. This year, they will donate to the Leukemia Foundation, NSPCC, Save the Children Fund and World of Vision.

The main attraction at this year's event will be the performance of Harvey, who is best known for his appearance in an ITV, UK, series called *Copy Cats*. Aiden has appeared in stage shows with such stars as Shirley Bassey, and Jimmy Tar-buck. He has impersonated several personalities including Mr T, Ian Botham, Mick Jagger, Cliff Richard, Benny Hill, Prince Charles, Tina Turner, Mohammad Ali, Sylvester Stallone, Michael Crawford, Popeye and several British TV personalities.

The main fund raiser for the charities would be a tombola for quick draw prizes valued up to KD50. The raffle would fetch prizes above KD50.

As the ball is being held for a good cause, organisers are keen to attract as many people as possible. Previously, about 300 people attended such events. This year, the Rondels expect to draw a bigger crowd.

Tickets are still available for the annual ball, and can be obtained from the organisers. (Please see What's On).

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Al Talal Pharmacy
Opp. Education Ministry, Hilaal St.
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Al Nimir Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Al Hamra
My Science Project
Starring: John Stockwell, Daniel Van Zirik
Drive-In
Al Nimir Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Al Firdous
Mard Ki Zaban (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra, Poonam Dhillon
Al Fahsheel
Binaat Haratna (Arabic)

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News via Satellite
3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'Laeb: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 World News via Satellite
4.25 Ghuyoum Bila Matar: historical serial, starring Mahmoud Abu Ghareeb, Abeer Essa, Rashida Dajani.
5.15 Bain Al Ams Wa Al Youm: Between Yesterday and Today. A look at progress made in various fields.
6.00 Songs
7.00 News Summary
7.05 With Students
7.45 Trading: local programme, presented by Saad Al Zuhairi.
8.15 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Raabeeh Fi Al Aasaf: new serial, starring Mustafa Fahmi, Hina Tharwath, Ahsan Qalawi, Hussein Sharbini
10.50 Songs, Music and Dance: a variety



David Selby plays Richard Channing in Falcon Crest

show featuring top performers from the Arab World.
12.15 News Summary
12.25 World News via Satellite
1.45 Holy Quran/Close down

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Get Along Gang: cartoons
6.30 Micro at Work: A look at computer systems and technology.
6.50 The Living Isles: "Beneath the Greenwoods."
7.30 Growing Pains:

"Call Me". Ben acquires a new habit — of making phone calls.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Buck James featuring Dennis Weaver Star-buck is a new series about a Texas millionaire who helps fight crime on streets.
9.30 The World of Strange Power: "Reincarnation: Have We Lived Before." Is there life after death? In some parts of the world, people believe there is. This programme examines the concept of reincarnation.
10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Hello, Baby." Balki's friend comes to town and she is expecting a baby.
10.30 Falcon Crest: "Obsession." A French socialite comes to town, asking Maggie to repay a loan that Chase took. Angela admits she is Richard's mother. And Eric loses his fortune in gambling.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsweek
30 Omnibus
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 Report on Religion
45 Country Style
0200 World News
09 Commentary
15 Chain Reaction
30 Citizens
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 Discover
0400 Newsweek
30 Byron Readings (ex 3rd Being Human)
40 Book Choice
45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Report on Religion
45 The World Today

0600 Newsweek
30 Median
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Development '88
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 Classical Record Review
30 Just A Minute
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Simon Colman's Record Hop
1000 News Summary followed by Omnibus
30 Back to Square One
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Byron Readings (ex 3rd Being Human)
25 A Letter from Wales
30 Meridian
1200 Radio Newsweek
15 Time for Verse
25 The Farming World
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Development '88

1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 Report on Religion
1500 Radio Newsweek
15 A Hobby — or a Way of Life?
30 The Good Human Guide (ex 24th Two Cheers for February)

FM Services

08.00-08.30 Easy Listening
08.30-08.40 News
08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
10.00-13.00 Songs and Music
13.00-13.30 Easy Listening
13.30-13.40 News
13.40-14.00 Easy Listening
14.00-16.00 Classical Music
16.00-17.00 Easy Listening
17.00-18.00 French Hour
18.00-19.00 Pops
19.00-20.00 Be Our Guest
20.00-21.30 Pops
21.30-21.45 News
21.45-22.00 Pops
22.00-23.00 Famous Classical Works
23.00-24.00 Easy Listening
24.00-02.00 Instrumental Listening

Required for a new Company

- Marketing & Sales Manager**
 - ★ University Degree in Business Administration.
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 - ★ Acquainted with Airline and Travel Agency business.
- Finance & Administration Manager**
 - ★ University Degree in Accounting.
 - ★ Minimum 5 years of experience in Accounting and Administration.
 - ★ Knowledge of Airline and Travel Agency Accounting.
- Accountant**
 - ★ University Degree in Accounting.
 - ★ Minimum 3 years of experience in Airline Accounting.
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 - ★ B.Sc Degree in Computer Science or Engineering.
 - ★ Extensive experience in P.C. Software and Hardware.
 - ★ Good knowledge in Data Communications.
- Systems Controller**
 - ★ Airline experience in Sales and Ticketing.
 - ★ Experience in Automated Reservations Systems.
- Sr. Training Officer**
 - ★ University Degree
 - ★ General Airline Experience
 - ★ Minimum 5 years of experience in Training.
 - ★ Ability to use Computers.
- Computer Technician**
 - ★ Technical Certificate in Electronics.
 - ★ Experience in repairing Computer Terminals.
- Executive Secretary**
 - ★ Certificate in Secretarial Work.
 - ★ Ability of typing Arabic/English.
 - ★ Knowledge of Word Processor and P.C.s.
 - ★ Minimum 3 years of experience.

General Requirements
1. All applicants should be fluent in English.
2. All applications including resumes, a recent photograph, telephone number and postal address should be sent to the following address: **General Manager P.O. Box 5673, Safat 13057 Kuwait.**
Note: Applications received after 21st February will not be considered.

The Indian School Kuwait

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BUT words once spoken can never be recalled —
Wentworth Dillon, English poet (about 1633-1685).

Afghans split over form of government

By Scheherezade Faramarzi

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (AP): Afghanistan's best-educated citizens seem split over the role of Islam in a future government, with some hoping for an Islamic state and others for a secular republic.

Some analysts in Pakistan, where some four million Afghan refugees live, expect those who favour a secular state to lose out in any power struggle if Soviet troops withdraw.

"This minority cannot change the destiny of Afghanistan," said Mohammed Ishaq, a former professor of literature at Kabul University. "The best it can do is try to be enslaved by its political system."

But it is unknown what effect on a future government could come from educated Afghans now in Kabul many of whom have Soviet training and who presumably could favour a secular state.

Possibilities
About six per cent of Afghans have university education. Educated Afghans interviewed in Peshawar believe most of these educated citizens and the nation's population overall, would opt for some form of Islamic state.

However, many forms of Islamic government are possible. The nation could be ruled by a religious leader, have a lay government but Islamic-style religious laws, or almost completely secular with Islam recognised nonetheless as the state religion and its practice officially encouraged.

One educated Afghan, who requested anonymity, said that during the eight years of Soviet intervention, intellectuals who favoured a secular state have had to struggle against both the Soviets and the Muslim fundamentalists.

"If the fundamentalists take over, I would never go back. Any kind of government where I will not have the right to live and speak my own mind is not acceptable," he said.

But other educated Afghans favour an Islamic society.

This group, mostly university graduates, once supported a Western-style democracy, said Ishaq, 48. But he said they became disillusioned over America's involvement in Vietnam, and over "the negative aspects of Western civilisation, like sex movies and carelessness about religion."

Disappointment
This group turned first to communism, but was disappointed after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979, Ishaq added.

"So they tried to go back to their own values of Islam," he said. Some of these are believed to have joined the guerrillas.

Ishaq and others interviewed believed Afghanistan would probably never become an Iran-

ian-style ruled by religious leaders. The Sunni Muslim sect, which dominates in Afghanistan, does not have a tradition of the type of religious hierarchy that exists in predominantly Shiite Iran.

Educated women might feel the greatest effect if a hardline Islamic government should come to power in Afghanistan. Already some of the religious leaders have expressed their belief that women shouldn't vote or participate in political life.

Fatima, a 34-year-old graduate in literature from Kabul University and former teacher at Afghanistan's Persian literature academy, says she wants Islam respected in the country. But she is against strict religious rules that would prevent women from sharing equal rights with men.

"I would like to see a government which is not communist. It doesn't matter if it is Islamic, as long as it is not fanatic like in Iran. The most important thing will be the way women are treated," she said.

Kamelah Ghias, 21, who studied in the United States and runs a video shop in Los Angeles, was in Peshawar visiting relatives. She feels Afghan society treats women "like animals."

She, too, doesn't want to return if the country becomes strongly Islamic.

"If men don't want us around, then they can have the whole country to themselves," she said.

Underestimated
Most Afghans who live in camps around Peshawar do not allow their women to go out of the house, even veiled.

One Afghan man, Sach Shah Rahman, said women had no political judgement.

"What do they understand?" he asked.

Educated Afghans interviewed in Peshawar expressed doubt that Western-style democracy would ever emerge in their country. But they favoured their future leaders coming from among those now fighting the communists inside Afghanistan, rather than those delivering speeches in Peshawar and to the media.

Such popular figures include the guerrilla commanders Ahmad Shah Massoud, Ismail Khan, Ostad Farid, Abdul Haq and Jalaluddin Haqqani.

"It is not a question whether they deserve it or not," said Ishaq. "They have the power in Afghanistan. Without them, it will be difficult to bring stability to Afghanistan."

Muhammad Ashraf Ali, 35, a refugee at the Mattani camp south of Peshawar, said the days of Zahir Shah, who was king before the 1978 communist takeover, were good.

But after the Soviet occupation, he said, "only Islam can cleanse the land from the atheists."



Arab women plead with an Israeli soldier for the release of arrested Palestinian youths

The uprising is spontaneous

Israelis rattled

By Robert G. Neumann

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM:

The news media are full of accounts of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and within "Israel." They deal with military action, deportation, and especially dead and wounded people.

The story is not new; there have been many disturbances during the 20 years of Israeli occupation; more will surely follow. But the heart of the matter is a 50-year-old point first raised in the Peel Commission report of 1937: Israelis and Palestinians make up two nations, fully conscious of their nationhood, but so different in language, culture, religion, and attitude that they cannot live with each other unless one is subordinate to the other. In that lies indignity, resentment, and bitterness, no matter how good the intentions of either side.

This is not to say that they could not live side by side and, eventually, develop technical, economic, and perhaps, political ties. But the two groups have to be separated before one can even think of getting them closer together — on an equal basis.

Toughy
The Israelis are very toughy about these riots, for four reasons.

● The explosion was primarily and initially spontaneous. It was not instigated by organisations such as the Palestine Liberation Organisation which might later have attempted to capitalise on the situation.

● The rioters were chiefly young, reflecting bitterness not only over their own but also over their parents' and grandparents' conditions. This guarantees that the conflict will continue into the indefinite future.

● There was open hatred in the rioters' eyes; many Israelis commented on that to me during my recent visit to the region.

● For the first time in years, Palestinians in Israel proper struck in solidarity with the demonstrators.

Perhaps the greatest surprise is the Israeli surprise. When have the occupied loved their occupiers? How would the Israelis like the Palestinians to act?

Just say, "yes, boss?" What human being acts that way?

Is that how the Israelis — then Palestinian Jews — acted toward the British occupiers during the mandate period?

Surely Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir did not act that differently. If they had, the British, and even late Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, would not have called them "terrorists" and issued warrants for their arrest.

Weighing further on Israeli's mind is the "demographic time bomb." The declaration of the American Jewish Congress (Sept. 21, 1987) states:

"A Jewish child born today (in Israel) can expect to enter high school in a land in which the Arab population virtually equals the Jewish population — it is that soon."

Stone-walled
At Camp David, former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin conceded the return of the Sinai Peninsula to Arab rule. Yet he stone-walled any territorial concession on the West Bank, which he considered part of the inalienable "Land of Israel (Eretz Israel)." Instead, he offered undefined "autonomy" for the Palestinian population not including their land. The issue was to be reconsidered five years later.

The American negotiators and proponents of Camp David felt that if the Palestinians were to accept autonomy, the area of self-determination would inevitably grow and make separatist statehood, annexation with Jordan, inevitable at some time. It is impossible in state whether or not they were right. The Arabs, especially the Palestinians, rejected the offer.

Now the autonomy idea crops up again, even in conversations with leaders in the Likud party.

Some also speak of a possible "condominium" between Israel and, presumably, Jordan. It is virtually certain that no such concept could be negotiated; it implies continued Israeli sovereignty over the occupied region, and no Arab leader would or could accept that.

Theoretically, the Israelis could impose "autonomy" by themselves. But who would then govern the cities and villages? Israeli-appointed mayors subservient to Israeli authorities, as is the case now? Few would recognise this as autonomy. If elections were held, most of the mayors would be part of the PLO. That was the case in 1976, the reason the Israelis soon removed all but one mayor. The Israelis say they will not repeat that experiment.

Off-key
In the meantime, like many other occupiers before them, the Israelis try to "pacify" the situation by force, using massive military contingents, prison and deportation, and now even collective punishment.

All that overlooks the well-known lesson of history and of other occupations: prisons, deportation, and even death are the schools in which revolutionaries are born and bred.

It is natural that the Israelis who, as Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has belatedly acknowledged, had underestimated the problem, now circle the wagons; they declare that they will not negotiate under duress, and not with "terrorists." The French said the same in Algeria.

In fact, the clumsy manner in which the Israelis are handling the situation indicates that they are rattled, off-key, and don't know what to do.

Many Israelis have begun to understand, as is clear from the vigorous and free Israeli press. What is not clear is how much time, blood, and agony will have to be expended before the Israeli government admits to itself and the Israeli people what is truly at the "heart of the matter."

The Christian Science Monitor.

Pre-election rivalry among French right hots up

By Alan Philips

PARIS, (Reuters): The French right is divided as it enters the presidential election campaign with two contenders trying to persuade voters each is the best candidate to drive the Socialists from the presidential palace.

Conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, propelled by a powerful and rich party machine, was the first to enter the campaign on Jan 16, 100 days before the first round of voting.

He is followed by former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, a centre-right economist who announced his candidature on Monday in France's second city, Lyon.

Both men aim to prevent a new socialist victory in May after the seven-year term of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, the first time the right has been out of power since the Fifth Republic was founded in 1958.

Complicated
Their task is complicated by Mitterrand's refusal to say if he will stand for a second term at the age of 71 — a tactic which deprives the rightist camp of a target and has brought the President unprecedented popularity.

Both rightist candidates are going out of their way to play down their rivalry and, at least in public, are refraining from direct attacks.

"I have always had cordial relations with Jacques Chirac on a personal level," said Barre. "If we have been forced into becoming rivals, we are neither adversaries nor enemies, since we both have the same values and the same social choices."

But behind these soothing words from the former prime minister, both candidates are preparing strategies to knock the other out of the running in the first round of polling on April 24.

which will eliminate all but the two leading contenders. A second ballot is scheduled for May 8 to choose the final victor.

Commentators often compare the Barre-Chirac rivalry to the fable of the race between the tortoise and hare.

The tall and energetic Chirac, who likes to campaign at break-neck speed, has been cast as the fast, confident hare.

The round and schoolmasterly Barre, who lists eating as one of his hobbies, enjoys comparison with the slow but ultimately victorious tortoise.

But this wisdom was turned on its head last week when opinion polls showed Chirac overtaking Barre as the right's top candidate.

Leading
According to two separate polls of voting intentions, Chirac is leading by a margin of about 22 per cent against 19 per cent for Barre.

"Having lived at a tortoise rhythm, comfortable in his lead in the polls, Raymond Barre has allowed his adversaries to develop a strategy which clearly aims to leave him stranded on the roadside," wrote journalists Jean-Marie Colombani, author of a book-length series of interviews with Barre.

"He considered too soon that he had won the primary contest with Chirac," Colombani wrote in Le Monde.

Alarm bells are ringing in the Barre camp, but the former prime minister maintains he has no intention of changing his stately style — at least until Mitterrand's intentions are clear.

As head of government between 1976 and 1981 under President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Barre is remembered for his drastic anti-inflation package which cut living standards and drove tens of thousands out

of work. When he left office in 1981, he was the most unpopular prime minister in the history of the Fifth Republic. But his standing rose when the Socialists were forced to abandon their reflationary policies in 1983 and revert to austerity.

"The French must understand that my policies were right. It is not up to me to change," says Barre of his time in power.

Despite the handicap of his past performance, Barre is still seen as the candidate most likely to beat the left.

According to a poll this week, 51 per cent can see the former university lecturer as capable of defeating a Socialist candidate.

Evaluation
Chirac, who is head of the neo-Gaullist RPR (Rally for the Republic) party, is credited with only 37 per cent.

Political analysts say the Barre-Chirac contest may depend on how voters see Chirac's two years of "cohabitation" or power-sharing with the Socialist Mitterrand.

The experiment, which was forced on Mitterrand when the right won the March 1986 parliamentary elections, has been denounced by Barre as a trap to emasculate the right.

But polls suggest it has received an unexpected degree of support by putting a brake on the excesses of the right, bent on revenge after five years of Socialist rule.

Much also depends on the candidate's image. Chirac has never overcome his reputation as a sharp-toothed political wolf dating from his rise to the top of the Gaullist movement.

Barre, however, cultivates a comforting, fatherly image which, combined with his economic expertise, could serve him well if new economic uncertainty hits France before the elections.

Results of Iowa caucuses

Some in better shape, others on way out



Bush

By Steve Gerstel

DES MOINES, Iowa, (UPI): For Vice President George Bush, the results of the Iowa caucuses were a humiliating defeat, but for preacher-turned-politician Pat Robertson, it was sweet revenge.

Republican Robert Dole scored a "must" victory Monday in the first test of voters in the 1988 presidential campaign but the big winner may have been Robertson and, certainly, the big loser was Bush.

Dole badly needed to win in the friendly confines of Iowa, where he is a well-known neighbor of long standing, to make him a contender as the campaign moves into alien territory in New Hampshire and the South.

But the much more spectacular result was Robertson's dramatic second place finish among the Republicans, which drove Bush to the depths of third place.

Boast
Robertson, the political neophyte, bragged that he would bring thousands and thousands of charismatic evangelists, Republicans as well as Democrats, into the Republican party — and apparently made good his boast in Iowa.

The Bush forces feared, that did not really believe, that



Robertson

Robertson could beat the Vice President in a state where Bush beat Ronald Reagan eight years ago.

It was sweet revenge for Robertson who, hapless and flummoxed, watched Bush and New York Rep. Jack Kemp deny him a victory at the Michigan state convention which he thought he had nailed down months ago.

The big question in the battle for the Republican nomination now is whether Bush is headed for a "free fall" that could eliminate him as a serious threat or whether he can bounce back.

The Vice President, according to the polls, is much stronger in New Hampshire and even stronger than that throughout the southern states that hold their mass primaries March 8.

Dole's victory, combined with Bush's far-back third in Iowa, will produce a "hump," the term used for the ripple effect of a victory on the next state to hold a primary.

Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa, the state campaign manager in Iowa, said the caucuses "mortally wounded" Bush but the Vice President's residual strength in New Hampshire could be deep enough to let him turn the tables — just as Reagan did in 1980.

It is up to Dole now to use his



Gephardt

Iowa victory as the springboard for catching up to Bush in New Hampshire — and he has one week to do it.

Similarly, Robertson has yet to demonstrate that he can turn out his type of voters in a primary state, as well as he was in caucus states such as Iowa and last week in Hawaii. But his second-place finish in Iowa could produce a flow of money which he badly needs.

The tight race among three of the Democrats — Missouri Representative Richard Gephardt, Illinois Senator Paul Simon and Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis — presents a more muddled picture.

The close finish probably allows Gephardt and Simon, neither of whom could suffer anything less than a strong finish — to continue into New Hampshire with their White House ambitions alive and well.

But Dukakis is in much better shape. By running a strong race in a state where he was a total stranger less than a year ago, the Massachusetts governor can go back to the northeast, where he, not Gephardt or Simon will be the neighbour son.

If Bush was the big loser, there were others.

Dismal
Kemp, once considered the darling of the Republican conservatives, finished a dismal fourth, putting him within a primary of elimination, and Democratic former Arizona Gov. Bruce Rabbitt, despite campaigning in the state for two years, could not make a breakthrough — almost certainly ending his candidacy.

In addition, the Iowa caucuses spelled the virtual end for Republican former Delaware Governor Pierre Du Pont, as well as for Gary Hart, the Democratic miracle candidate of 1984 who became the pariah of 1988. Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, no factor in the Republican Iowa caucuses, is expected to shut down his campaign after New Hampshire.

The verdict is still out on Senator Albert Gore, Democrat Tennessee, banking his entire campaign on the southern states, and Jesse Jackson's best election nights are still ahead of him.

Britain to battle racketeering in Ulster

By Paul Majendie

BELFAST, (Reuters): The British government, battling racketeering in Northern Ireland, is setting up a task force to tackle paramilitary extremists who have made millions from the business of fear.

Mafia-style bosses on both sides of the sectarian divide have grown rich enough to extricate themselves from the racketeering and drinking clubs to buy advanced weaponry, pay gunmen weekly wages and support the families of imprisoned guerrillas.

Security chiefs reckon up to £16 million a year go into coffers of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting to unite Ireland, and Protestant paramilitary extremists who are fighting to keep Northern Ireland British.

Terror is such a profitable business that extortion barons put aside their deep-seated hatred for each other's political and religious beliefs to carve up territories between them.

"It is undoubtedly a very big problem," said a spokesman at Britain's Northern Ireland office, which plans by April, to announce the setting up of anti-racketeering task force.

The police started a 20-man anti-rackets squad in 1982 but senior officers who have been to the United States to study the anti-mafia laws known as RICO (racket-influenced and corrupt

organisations) realise the need for a wider approach.

The new task force, which will liaise closely with police, will be made up of customs officers, tax officials, social security staff, legal advisers and accountants.

"The American experience has taught us the real need for a complete administrative approach. You have got to get all the agencies working together," the spokesman said.

"Racketeering is a very difficult area to get to grips with. You cannot jump in feet first. We are determined to move quickly and to get it right," he said.

A big problem in the business of fear is getting victims to co-operate. "It is extremely difficult to get people into court against his background of fear and intimidation. We have to show the business community we can deal with this problem. Perhaps they will then become emboldened and come forward."

A leading campaigner against the racketeers is Dr Brian Feeney, a Belfast councillor for the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the Voice of Moderate Catholics in the North.

He argues: "If we don't do something now, we will never be successful. In the last five or six years it has been like a mafia-style operation in the 1920s here."

Controversy dogs Waldheim

VIENNA, (Reuters): Kurt Waldheim, United Nations Secretary-General between 1972 and 1982, became Austria's head of state despite accusations that he had a criminal Nazi past but the controversy has refused to go away.

His campaign for the presidency and his victory in June 1986 were marked by allegations, mainly from the World Jewish Congress (WJC) in New York, that he had been involved in war crimes by Hitler's army in the Balkans.

Waldheim knew about Nazi wartime atrocities and effectively aided them by failing to object while serving in the German Army, an international commission said in a report.

The government-appointed six-member panel found no evidence that Waldheim directly took part in Nazi war crimes, but said his assertion that he did not know about the fate of Jews deported from Greece was "not believable."

Until 1986, Waldheim, 69, was largely regarded as an aloof and lacklustre statesman with no skeletons in his closet.

He was born the son of school teacher on Dec 21, 1918, in the lower Austrian village of St. Andrea-Weodern, which was annexed by Hitler in 1938 and formed an integral part of the Third Reich.

Waldheim's published accounts of his life implied his career in the German Army

ended after an injury on the Russian front in 1941 and that he then devoted himself to his studies at the Consular Academy of Vienna University.

But all that changed in March 1986, when the Austrian news magazine Profil published a copy of Waldheim's military registration card with endorsements suggesting he had belonged to the Nazi Brownshirts (SA).

Profil said that Waldheim had served in the Balkans from 1941 to 1945, for much of the time under General Alexander Loeb, who was executed for war crimes in 1947.

Waldheim said he left out those years simply because he had been unfit to serve on the front and because he did not want to bore his readers with unimportant activities.

He said he had served only a junior staff officer and liaison officer, responsible for compiling reports on the enemy and sometimes interpreting. He denied knowing that thousands of Greek Jews were deported from the town of Salonika, just six km (four miles) from where he was based for many months.

Despite his denials, on April 27, 1987, his name was added to the US Justice Department's immigration "watch list" of people to be refused entry to the United States because of their association with Hitler's regime.

Two days before the US decision, Waldheim told the Bel-

gian daily Le Soir that he was aged 22 at the time of his alleged crimes and as a lieutenant had no power to order partisans to be executed.

He said he had a clear conscience and had merely done his duty like hundreds of thousands of fellow Austrians. Far from damaging him, the accusations helped the former UN chief gain popularity within Austria.

Waldheim went on to become Austria's first non-socialist head of state since World War Two.

His victory in the second round of the presidential poll was greeted by a storm of protest outside Austria. Israeli officials expressed anger and sorrow and vowed to push ahead with an investigation into his alleged Nazi involvement.

Most Austrians did not believe he was guilty of war crimes, and they were prepared to forgive him for misleading statements and glaring omissions in his curriculum vitae.

But then Chancellor, Fred Sinowatz, accused Waldheim of "careless treatment of the truth" and former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky said the man he had backed to head the United Nations — on a different curriculum vitae — had now damaged Austria's image abroad.

Waldheim was the first UN Secretary-General from a country on the Axis side in World War Two.

By Kathy Cuddihy

LAST week's Super-Bowl signalled the official finale of the football season. Thank goodness. For the sake of my good marriage, I can safely say that it has come to an end not a moment too soon (the football season, not my marriage).

Not being a football fan (or a fan of any other TV sports, for that matter), I've had just about all I can take of this ongoing disruption in my life. Since last October we've watched a seemingly endless parade of league games and play-offs. And, just to keep the interest from waning, there has even been a sprinkling of non-pro college games.

My in-house football addict introduced me to the new routine with a finality that left no room for doubt: "Sorry, dear, we'll have to miss that movie tonight. I know you've been looking forward to seeing it, but today is Sunday, and Sunday night is football night. That movie will be shown again and again, but there's only one live football game." This statement soon amended itself to include Saturday, and then any other day when an "unexpected" game was aired.

Early in the season, my husband had come home with the full schedule of games, so there was nothing but or miss about our viewing hours. Our set was tuned in with faithful regularity from the first kick-off to the last hurrah. It didn't take me too long to smarten up and make sure that the schedule "got lost," but Buddy had already memorised all the pertinent information.

"So where's this photographic memory of yours when it comes to remembering what's on the grocery list you habitually forget to bring to the store? And what about remembering birthdays and anniver-

Surviving football season



saries? Why does football have the power to revitalise those normally atrophied grey cells? Maybe medical science should know about this. "There would never be any response, of course, because during The Season, Buddy's eyes and ears respond only to television football noises, or related conversations."

Oh, I've made an honest effort this year to understand the rules and the psychology of the game. I've tried hard to figure out exactly what those armoured men are trying to achieve... and why they choose to go about it in such a violent way. But just when I feel I'm

making a bit of headway in comprehending the players, the announcers jump in to confuse me. Like the one who enthusiastically tut-tutted the all-waves with the following player description: "There's a fellow who knows the difference between coffee here and gose 'em." Pardon me? It's bad enough trying to make sense of an alien sport, but when I can't even understand my own language...

My husband, bless his little channel changer, usually has the most sincere intentions when it comes to explaining the game to me. Except, of course, when my questions happen to

coincide with something exciting on the screen. I know there won't be an instant replay when the veins in his head begin to throb and his cheeks puff up and turn purple.

But even at the best of times, his explanations don't help a great deal. When I ask, "What's a safety man?" Buddy feels it's perfectly adequate to reply, "a position"...and leave it like that. He hasn't quite fathomed that it would be in his interest to convert me. That way he could probably squeeze in a few more games each week.

So, in the absence of more lucid explanations, I have had to puzzle through such quaint jargon as "illegal movements." I have to ask myself, is there a confusion here between legal and medical terminology? Or, "face mask." It's obvious that the teams take a few mud baths, but isn't it carrying it a bit far to be calling for a face mask in the middle of a game?

I don't mind my husband's devotion to football as much as I do his sudden incredible tolerance for late nights and early mornings. In order to catch all the live telecasts, he'll stay up until, or get up at, any odd hour. Yet when we're out for a social evening, there are mumbles and grumbles if we stay out too much past midnight. "It's alright for you, but I have to go to work in the morning, Kathy."

What really hurts, though, is the man's blind admiration for some of the players. "Joe Morris. You should see that guy play. It's absolutely unbelievable what he can do." My question is, can he iron? Does he wash windows? Can he whip up a 3-course gourmet meal? If so, I might consider doing a trade to get him over here on my team.

By Andrew Gumbel

LONDON, (Reuters): "While London burns..." announce the posters against a background of wasteland, fires and riot police, "Sammy and Rosie Get Laid."

So runs the publicity for Sammy and Rosie Get Laid, a newly-released state-of-Britain film whose angry swipes at life under a right-wing government in the 1980s have caused a furore.

Its title, which shocked US distributors when the film was released there in October, prompted several regional British newspapers to say they might not advertise or review it as it goes on national release this month.

The Sunday Times, a national newspaper, ran an article by Oxford University history professor Norman Stone calling it a prize example of left-wing propaganda and "general disgustingness."

The outrage over Sammy and Rosie has added fuel to recent debate over freedom of expression in Britain, which opposition parties say has been threatened by government injunctions on books and television programmes and legislation which would ban local councils from "promoting homosexuality."

The film depicts a Britain torn apart by racism, violence and an irreconcilable gap between the haves and have-nots, centering on the open house and open marriage of accountant Sammy and Rosie, a social worker.

"England seems to have become a squalid, ugly and uncomfortable place," the film's scriptwriter Hanif Kureishi wrote recently. "Its government... has attacked most forms of legitimate opposition. The few areas of freedom and dissent left are contracting."

'A prize example of general disgustingness' — Sunday Times

'Crosses the boundaries of good taste' — Mary Whitehouse

'Whenever a right-wing newspaper calls one of our films sick ... I know we must be doing the right thing' — Hanif Kureishi

Sammy and Rosie shock Britain's establishment



Claire Bloom as Alice, Shashi Kapoor as Rafi and Suzette Llewellyn as Vivian in a scene from Sammy and Rosie... a newly-released state-of-Britain film which has shocked the establishment.

fast." The film opens with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's 1987 general election victory speech promising improvements in the inner cities. At the end, bulldozers flatten a makeshift community of homeless people living in caravans and shacks underneath a motorway flyover.

Featuring race riots in the street and interracial couplings in bed (three of which are shown simultaneously on a split screen), its characters include, in Rosie's words, "the usual social deviants, communists, lesbians and blacks, with a sprinkling of the mentally subnormal to start the dancing."

The 1.5 million sterling (2.6 million dollars) production is the work of Kureishi and director Stephen Frears, whose previous low-budget story of a homosexual relationship between two Londoners, one white and one Asian, My Beautiful Laundrette, was an unlikely international hit.

Kureishi originally wanted the new film's title to be a straight four-letter word, but even in its modified form it has been called "salacious" on both sides of the Atlantic.

British morality campaigner Mary Whitehouse, whose organisation the national viewers and listeners association lobbies against what it sees as obscenity, said in a newspaper interview: "The title of the film certainly crosses the boundaries of good taste."

"Indeed, to have it displayed on cinema billboards where anyone can see it amounts, in my opinion, to a public nuisance."

US newspapers including the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times insisted on shortening it to "Sammy and Rosie" in their advertising in line with the Motion Picture Association of America which

refused to register the title as it stood. The state of Ohio banned the film altogether.

In his Sunday Times article entitled "Sick scenes from English life," Stone looked at six recent British releases including "Sammy and Rosie" and "Laundrette," calling them flat and two-dimensional.

"They represent at best a tiny part of modern England and, more likely, a nasty part of their producers' brains," he wrote. Stone's article provoked an angry response from Kureishi, who wrote a few days later in the liberal daily Guardian: "Whenever a right-wing newspaper calls one of our films 'sick' Stephen and I know we must be doing the right thing."

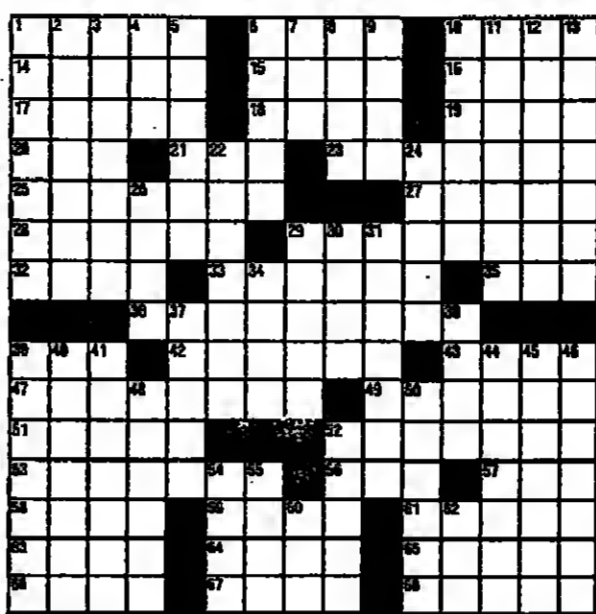
"Last September the Sunday Times wrote a leader in which they complained of Britain's intelligentsia always 'sniping from the sidelines'. I think this is euphemism for being critical. God forbid that any artist should mention unemployment, or racism, or poverty."

Palace Pictures, distributors of "Sammy and Rosie" said the film took half a million dollars in its first three months in the United States, where it is still opening in major cities.

Box office earnings of 42,000 sterling (73,500 dollars) for its first week at three London cinemas promise well for its future in this country too.

"What it is," said Roland Gift, one of the film's leading actors, "is a movie you don't forget too quickly."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 One of Seven
- 6 The Seven —
- 10 Rance's husband
- 14 Crossbeam
- 15 "A — of Two Cities"
- 16 Cheese town of Holland
- 17 Father of the Seven Little Foys
- 18 Lot, plot or spot
- 19 Subsidiary group
- 20 CSA general
- 21 And
- 23 Human canary?
- 25 Baltimore Birds
- 27 — doing
- 28 Wrote
- 29 Group of seven musicians: Brit.
- 32 "The — of Night"
- 33 The number seven
- 36 Goddess of dawn
- 38 Movie scripts
- 39 Part of a play
- 42 Mad as a —
- 43 Fairy-tale character
- 47 Comes first
- 49 A squirrel, at times
- 51 Flower part
- 52 One of Seven Virtues

DOWN

- 2 One of Seven Deadly Sins
- 5 Part of a min.
- 56 Russian hemp
- 59 Coffee containers
- 61 "It is easy — in the sunshine": E.W. Wilcox
- 63 French coins of old
- 64 See 1 Across
- 65 Elbow
- 66 Minus
- 67 Another Deadly Sin
- 68 Hardy red wheat
- 1 One of seven daughters of Atlas
- 2 Gave the word
- 3 Serving soup
- 4 Egg Comb. form
- 5 Crab and grouse
- 6 Puts down stakes
- 7 Sound receptor
- 8 Mug fillers
- 9 Do an usher's job
- 10 See 1 Down
- 11 Hero worship
- 12 Crash
- 13 Stands in the way
- 22 Maira Shearer, for one

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WHAT A DIFFERENCE A PLAY MAKES

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

♠ 6

♥ A Q 6 5 3

♦ Q 9 4

♣ 10 8 4 3

WEST

♠ J 3 2

♥ K 10 8

♦ J 10 8 7 6 2

♣ 2

EAST

♠ K 7

♥ J 4

♦ K 5

♣ A K Q 9 7 6 5

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 9 8 5 4

♥ 9 7 2

♦ A 3

♣ J

The bidding:

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South 1 ♣

West 4 ♣

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completed the defensive book, and he led a third round for his partner to ruff away the table's winner. Declarer eventually had to concede a heart for down one.

In the other room, East did not cover the jack of diamonds. He won the ace and finessed the nine of diamonds, losing to the king. East had no way to get to his partner for a ruff, so declarer was able to take the heart finesse; draw trumps via the finesse, then cross to the table with the ace of hearts to discard his heart loser on the queen of diamonds.

Which line do we prefer? Frankly, neither. Since both major-suit finesses must be right if the contract is going to succeed, we would try the heart finesse after winning the ace of diamonds, and use the entry to take the trump finesse. After drawing trumps, declarer can lead a diamond to the nine, and he doesn't have to worry about possible ruffs.

Opening lead: Two of ♠

How you play suit combinations can make a world of difference. A wrong decision cost the eventual winners of the Spingold Team Championship 10 International Match Points on this deal.

Both teams reached four spades on virtually identical auctions. In both rooms, East won the queen of clubs and continued with the king. Both declarers ruffed with the ten of spades, and both Wests overruffed with the jack and shifted to the jack of diamonds.

In one room, declarer covered with the queen and captured the king with the ace. He immediately shot back a diamond. West's ten

conceded a trick.

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TRAVEL

Natural world at its fairest and most beautiful

Mauritius: paradise without the snakes

The island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean is an idyllic place for a holiday or honeymoon, but be careful and avoid the pitfalls, advises Keith Wells.

AS the British Airways 747 curled lazily around the island we looked down on Mauritius, jagged peaks rose up from vivid green flatlands covered with sugar plantations, a fringe of white breakers divided the long yellow beaches from the cobalt blue sea, occasionally deep river gorges lined with jungle cut down from the mountains into the sea. It looked like paradise.

But unlike the Garden of Eden, Mauritius has no snakes, no poisonous insects of any kind, it really is the natural world at its fairest and most beautiful. Many of the roads are lined with flamboyant trees, their scarlet blossoms blazing overhead, their dead petals like pools of blood at the roadside. Bright yellow flowering trees make some of the lanes like tunnels of light. There seem to be flowers everywhere; bougainvillea of every imaginable hue; purple, pink, crimson, apricot, salmon pink, cream and white, blossoming in extravagant profusion.

Enormous

Travelling around the island you drive between vast sugarcane plantations. Enormous irrigation machines cruise slowly up and down the lanes between the sugarcane, shooting out long white jets of water that look like slowly revolving wings, as if some gigantic white heron were performing a serene and stately pavane amidst the rustling applause of the emerald cane.

Large stretches of the coastline seem virtually deserted, mile after mile of empty beaches, sandy bays, hidden coves, the surf breaking over the reefs a few hundred yards off shore where the water changes from lucid green to deep royal ocean blue. Black cliffs appear, rear up, but are then sliced through by a tumbling river whose gorge is a primeval jungle, alive with chattering monkeys and maybe Java deer, heads cocked in wary caution as they hear your approach. Little villages and hamlets are strung along the coastal road like beads. Some of the houses are substantial, palaces smothered with trailing bougainvillea, japonica or trumpet vines, surrounded by sweetly scented frangipani or groves of bananas. Others are little more than grass huts, but poverty is a but washed by the azure waters of the Indian Ocean is not exactly misery. Especially when you have a small plot of vegetables, a few banana trees, a mango tree and a patch of pineapples to supplement the fish swimming outside your window.



One of the estuaries along the East Coast. This one is a favourite with surfers because at high tide the waves race through the narrow opening.

The sugar fields are covered with heaps of black, rusty brown and grey lava rock which is perfect for building and costs nothing. The thick palm thatch is just as plentiful and equally attractive. The villagers are often fishermen, you see them grouped around their nets, waist deep in the limpid waters, straw hats shading them from the glorious sun as they have glittering silver fish into their boats which look rather like old fashioned dhows.

There are several towns on the island of Mauritius which has an area of about 720 square miles. Curepipe, the main population centre, is a sprawling town of about 170,000 people. The total population of the island is just over a million of whom about 750,000 are of Indian descent. Then there are just over 200,000 Creoles, 50,000 Chinese and about 5,000 white Mauritians, mostly of French descent. Most of the population seem to be bilingual, Creole French is the native language, but the official language is English and all teaching takes place in English so communication is very easy. It's made easier by their friendly good-nature. Just driving around the island in a rented car we found that people are always waving at us, broad grins on their faces. This friendliness is one of the delights of Mauritius and makes you feel at home straight away.

In case you think I got completely carried away by the beauty of the island, let me hasten to add that there are drawbacks, but nothing that cannot be avoided with a little forethought. First of all, be careful about where you stay. The best hotels on the island, the Royal Palm, Le Touessrok (where Prince Andrew and Fergie spent their honeymoon) and the St Geran are superb, but quite expensive. The Royal

Palm starts at KD 150 per night! The others are less expensive, but if you're looking for something cheaper then you could try Le Croix de Sud. This delightful new hotel is built on a tiny sandy peninsula just outside the old southern town of Mahebourg. Accommodation is in traditional thatched cottages, all with stunning sea views and surrounded by palms, rosebushes, beds of rock roses and hibiscus.

All of the resort hotels offer a wide range of sea sports; windsurfing, waterskiing, snorkelling and diving and big game fishing for the marlin, swordfish and tuna which are found just outside the reefs. But you have to be careful, some of the hotels, like La Pirogue, are ruined because you cannot go swimming for the thousands of spiny sea urchins which cover the sea bottom.

Hotels like La Pirogue, La Chaland and Troux aux Biches offer a sort of package holiday atmosphere, lots of games, activities and entertainment. Others, like the St Geran, Le Touessrok and the Royal Palm are more sedate, concentrating on superb cuisine and excellent facilities to attract their selected clientele.

Bustling

Mauritius is a bustling place that seems to be booming right now. A new tax free export zone has led to the arrival of lots of textile and clothing factories. Famous names in French fashion manufacture their clothes in Mauritius, then sew their exclusive labels into the garments when they get back to France. I bought a beautiful designer sweater for only five dollars, a friend managed to get a backdoor Gucci leather jacket for just fifty dollars, though this was strictly illegal. Like Kuwait, in Mauritius it depends on who you know.

Among the things not to be missed are the famous Pam-

plemousses Botanical Gardens which are ranked third in the world after Kew and the gardens of Kandy in Sri Lanka. Besides seventy different kinds of palms Pallemousses has an enormous range of exotic plants. Our guide had a degree in botany and an obvious love of the subject that made him a delightful companion for our tour. He'd pluck a leaf, crush it in his hands, hold it under our noses and say: "What is it?" Cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, coffee, tea, vanilla, some we guessed, others we couldn't, but it was all great fun. Some of the most dramatic exhibits in the gardens were the enormous metre-wide leaves of the giant water lily, Victoria Regia, from the Amazon River. We also saw some rare ebony trees, black ebony wood is so dense and heavy that it sinks in water. It takes two hundred years to grow a tree only a foot in diameter, so it's no wonder that real ebony is so expensive.

The Pamplémousses Gardens were laid out in the 18th century by Mahe de la Bourdonnais around his exquisitely eccentric colonial house with 26 french doors, but no windows. Near the house are several specimens of the Talipot Palm which only flowers once every hundred years and then dies.

Beautiful

Another beautiful place to visit is the Casela Bird Park which has over 140 species of tropical birds in huge aviaries that are cleverly built right into the jungle. The gardens all around are perched on the edge of an escarpment with a gorgeous panoramic view across the sugar plains to the coast. Wandering through the jungle gardens, observing golden pheasants, Mauritian pink pigeons, peacocks and brilliant parrots, while a cooling breeze wafts through the flame trees, you really begin to think you are in paradise.

Then you get to the food, and the illusion becomes complete. Mauritian cuisine is a blend of three of the greatest types of cooking in the world, French, Indian and Chinese. Freshwater shrimps, lobsters, squids, tropical fruits and spices are all blended with a little Creole magic to make dishes that linger in the memory for days. Even something as simple and ordinary as vanilla ice cream becomes a whole new experience when it is home made with real, fresh vanilla.

In small wayside cafes and restaurants you can eat like a king for next to nothing. We had one meal in a tiny waterfront restaurant near

Mahebourg with the glorious name of Chez Joe. The feast consisted of prawns in a spicy sweet and sour sauce and upside down bowl which is rice with seafood, chicken, beef and vegetables, two beers and two glasses of the fiery and potent Mauritian rum and the bill for the whole lot came to two and a quarter dinars.

Memorable

The most memorable trip was when we hired a car and drove all along the southern coast from Mahebourg to Le Morne. For mile after mile the coastal road winds in and out of the sugar cane and the jungle, soars over deep gorges where jade green rivers wind between coconut palms, then swings out alongside empty white sand beaches where the reef is only a few metres offshore and the white waves pound into flying foam. Then the reef reappears a hundred yards offshore, the angry sea becomes a limpid blue lagoon, scattered with black volcanic rocks and small islets about the size of a football pitch, covered with thick jungle.

In some places the sugar cane sweeps right down to the water's edge, in others there is a fringe of jungle or mangrove swamp. Sometimes the beaches are lined with feathery horsetail pines. Once I saw a group of fifty foot tall pines strung with long trailing veils of pink and white bougainvillea, like bridal wreaths. We kept stopping the car to take pictures or wander along the deserted beaches, watching the little fishes twirling around in the tide, tails flickering in the light as they swam in and out of the rocks.

But again there was a downside. We had rented the car from Hertz for ten dinars a day. When we took it back the following day they started adding up all the twiddly hits, insurance, collision waivers, mileage (actually kilometres) and they had stily added 150



Mauritius has some of the best beaches in the world, but it is the little bays and coves like this which make the island so unique.

before we had even started). To cut a long story short it ended up costing fifty dinars for a single day! One last, unpleasant taste of avaricious Mauritius, but, luckily not enough to ruin the trip, although had we rented the car for a week without knowing the true rate we could have been in real trouble.

To sum up, Mauritius is an idyllic place for a holiday. British Airways are promoting it as

a honeymoon destination and that makes perfect sense. But you have to be careful and avoid the pitfalls. If money is no object, stay at Le Touessrok, the St Geran or the Royal Palm. La Croix de Sud is much cheaper, but it's a truly delightful hotel with a lovely pool, good food and a stunning situation surrounded by the sea on three sides. Taxis are reasonable, but the drivers all seem to

have a death wish, much better to rent a car, but don't use Hertz, try to find one of the smaller private firms that hang around the hotels and check the small print before you take off. Don't be afraid to eat at the wayside cafes and restaurants, they have some of the greatest food in the world at ridiculous prices. British Airways flights to Mauritius leave Bahrain every Wednesday and Sunday.

Camel-trekking in Rajasthan

Uneasy riders

By Martin Symington

OF THE four of us heading off into the bare, scrub-speckled sand dunes of the Rajasthan desert, two were distinct novices at camel-riding and perched uncomfortably on the blanket-covered wooden saddles as the animals rocked back and forth like fairground machines.

Our two companions were camel-drivers and desert guides. They were proud young men and as Rajputs, much on their dignity. Both sported carefully twirled moustaches and wore bright-coloured turbans — one red, the other orange. Neither had ever been outside the desert.

The Majahiv brothers live in Jaisalmer, India's remote sandstone fortress city which was shrinking towards the eastern horizon. In the early morning sunlight the formidable golden-yellow fort with its 99 rounded turrets stood out against the clear blue sky like a giant sandcastle.

Sauntered

Jaisalmer's history dates back to the 12th century when the city became a great trading post between east and west. The discovery of the sea route to India, by the Portuguese three centuries later, killed its commercial importance, but successive flamboyant maharajas maintained its splendour with temples and palaces, all encrusted with stone carvings. Only in the last decade has this exotic city become accessible to the tourists with the construction of a road and a railway.

We sauntered eastward in single file across stony expanses and over dunes towards the Pakistani border. Unexpectedly out of the desert loomed an arrangement of large pillars supporting carved stone canopies, their curves simulating

the undulating desert dunes. We were at the maharajas' cenotaph where, unattended in the wilderness, all the princely rulers of the last six centuries are entombed.

The distances to cover are considerable and camels are leisurely in their gait. So it was several hours more before we reached the next feature of this scattered and dispersed museum-landscape.

Over the rolling horizon, shimmering in the heat, emerged the sand-coloured and well-camouflaged tiny oasis village of Damodra, a few mud-and-straw huts sprinkled around a small hut beautifully proportioned 15th-century Jain temple of light-coloured stone. A white-clad monk emerged to greet us, sweeping the floor in front of him as he moved, for his religion forbids him to kill so much as an insect.

We had to remove belts and any other leather before slipping barefoot into the hushed, dark and deliciously cool interior. There we found a secret tribute to human dedication and creativity: intricate weaves of latticework and filigree, seemingly defying the nature of the stone from which they are fashioned, and statues of deities adorned in the minutest detail.

Bouncing up and down on our camels once more as the day mellowed into late-afternoon warmth, we watched a pair of small, refined-looking desert gazelles leap to their feet as we approached, stand motionless for a second, then spring nimbly over a hillock and dart away across the arid expanse. A flock of scruffy vultures flapped noisily into the air as we disturbed their business with a dry goat's carcass. High above us, a great buzzard glided in graceful circles.

Both we and our camels were



A camel trek through the desert can be an exhilarating experience.

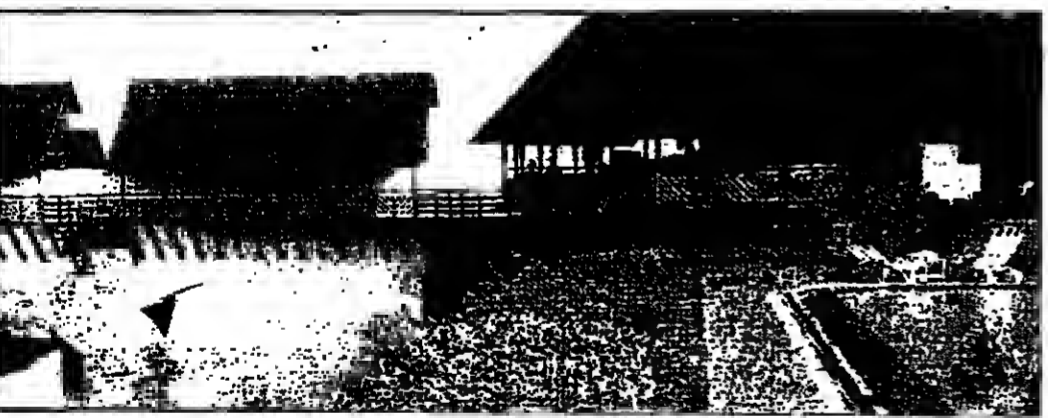
ready to rest. Our camping place was between hummocks of fine bare sand, ribbed and rippled by prevailing winds. We cooked hot vegetable curry and chapatis and learned Rajput folk songs around the campfires before sleeping under the stars.

Our return route was still more remote, looping southwards across parched earth framed by a featureless horizon. Our camels maintained their air of haughty indifference to all around them. Unlovable, but obedient in a scornful sort of way, they seemed contemptuous of desert joy-riders.

Our guides were reassuringly

confident that Jaisalmer would reappear some time the next day. Also promised was an oasis pool of cool water where we could bathe away the sweat of two days.

Sure enough, the village of Manapia duly appeared: a circular pool supporting a scattering of modest dwellings. A circumference of baked, cracked silt sloped towards the pond, which measured about 50 feet across. We decided not to disturb the tranquillity of waders and spoonbills as they filtered the water for algae, and settled down, still smelly, to a second evening of Rajasthani entertainment punctuated by the soft coos of camels.



Le Touessrok Hotel, where Prince Andrew and Fergie spent their honeymoon, is a marvellous piece of architecture that straddles a narrow peninsula, and a small inlet connected by this bridge. Every room has a stunning view of the sea.

FAMILY DOCTOR
By Dr Allan BruckheimIMMUNISATION CAN BE RISKY
FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

QUESTION: Is there any reason to give immunity shots to a pregnant woman?

ANSWER: Immunisation during pregnancy should only be considered when the potential benefits to mother and child far outweigh the risks. For instance, women born since 1957 may not have been infected or adequately immunised against measles and mumps. An underimmunised pregnant woman who contracts measles risks miscarriage, premature labour or birth defects. Infection with mumps during pregnancy likewise has been linked to an increase in spontaneous abortions.

For the unprotected pregnant woman who is exposed to a harmful virus or who may expect the possibility of exposure because of her occupation (ie. working with children or foreign travel), the agonising question is: Will vaccination do more harm than good? As one young mother lamented, "How do I make the right decision?"

First of all, don't panic. If you're just contemplating pregnancy, your physician will likely suggest you update your immunisation profile well ahead of time. If this is no

linger an option, the pros and cons associated with each type of vaccine (live, inactive and toxoid) can be discussed.

Live vaccines, unless there has been exposure to smallpox, yellow fever or TB, are rarely administered during pregnancy because the inactive infection which precipitates this form of protection could adversely affect or infect the growing fetus.

Inactive vaccines, using killed bacteria or viruses, pose no theoretical threat to mother and child. In fact, for rabies, polio, influenza and hepatitis B exposure, their use is a mandated lifesaver, when indicated.

The third category, toxoids, use altered toxins (poisons) that can stimulate your system to develop its immunity, but have lost harmful effects as their chemical structure has been changed.

So there are circumstances when pregnant women may have to have immunisations, but the decisions must be made very carefully, weighing all the possibilities.

QUESTION: I must admit your column is pretty good, and your answers hit the nail

on the head most of the time. But are you any good with medical trivia questions? Where did the term "blue blood" come from? If I don't see this in your column, I'll know you don't have the answer.

ANSWER: You mustn't challenge me like this. It drives me to degrees of frenzied activity which could be bad for my health. As you know, all blood vessels look blue when viewed through the skin, although they contain blood that is red. The lighter the skin, the more noticeable that blue shade is. In the days of aristocrats and peasants, the peasants worked in the fields, becoming hawny and tanned, and the colour of the vessels became obscured. Meanwhile, back at the palace, the aristocrats remained carefully protected from the sun's rays, with white, translucent skin. It was easy to see their vessels, fine blue lines contrasting with the fairness of the skin. Blue vessels meant blue blood to these folk, and thus aristocrats became known as "Blue Bloods." Two points for Bruckheim, and who's next?

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

New bidder looms in battle for Belgium's biggest firm

BRUSSELS, Feb 9, (Reuters): A powerful Belgian group claiming to hold a controlling stake in Belgium's biggest company, Societe Generale de Belgique, has emerged as the biggest obstacle yet to Italian tycoon Carlo De Benedetti's takeover bid.

De Benedetti's prospects of winning the battle took a knock when it was announced yesterday that a mainly Belgian consortium already controlled 27.5 per cent of Societe Generale's capital, enough to block board decisions.

Andre Leysen, chairman of Belgian holding company Gevaert NV which is leading the consortium, said the group would control 49.25 per cent of the capital if a legally-disputed issue of 12 million shares were allowed to go ahead.

Records
Trading in Societe Generale shares again broke records on Monday and some brokers said they believed the battle for the conglomerate was entering its final stages.

At least 3.3 million shares, or 11.6 per cent of Societe Generale's capital, changed hands as their price soared as high as 4,420 Belgian francs (\$124.20).

The shares closed at a record high of 4,360 francs (\$122.50), 16.3 per cent above last Friday's close.

The surge followed a weekend announcement from De Benedetti's French holding company Compagnie Europeenne Reunies (Cerus) that it was raising its public share offer to 4,000 francs.

A Brussels court will decide later today whether to lift an injunction removing voting rights from the new shares.

De Benedetti argues that the issue is aimed at diluting his shareholding and is illegal.

Leysen said he was prepared to cooperate with all other shareholders in Societe Generale but added: "The point which divides me from De Benedetti is that he wants sole control of Societe Generale. I cannot accept that."

US trade delegation to visit Kuwait

PITAMBER Devgon, director of the US Agricultural Trade Office, in Bahrain, announced that an American food trade delegation will be visiting Kuwait from March 4 to 7 and Dubai from March 8 to 10.

Devgon will lead the delegation to both countries. The delegation includes senior representatives of private US food exporters, several state departments of agriculture and agricultural trade associations.

The sales team is part of the USDA's efforts to step up the sales of the US food and agricultural products to Gulf countries.

The delegation will be visiting Kuwait and the UAE after concluding their participation in the 5th Middle East Food and Equipment Exhibition (MEFEEX '88) in Bahrain.

Plan to set up joint transport firm

ANKARA, Feb 9, (Reuters): The transport ministers of Turkey and Iran will meet next week to discuss creation of a joint transport firm and safer ways for Turkey to import Iranian oil, official sources said today.

They said Turkey's Ekrem Pakdemirli and Iran's Mohammad Said-Kiya will meet in the southeastern Turkish town of Van on February 18 and later in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal starts an official visit to Tehran on February 28 for talks on the Iran-Iraq war, bilateral ties and a proposed oil export pipeline from Iran's Abaz fields to Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

Ankara has maintained good relations with both warring countries and relies on them for 75 per cent of its oil imports. Iraq already operates an oil export pipeline through Turkey.

Turkey imports most of its Iranian oil in tankers which load just outside the Gulf. Most other trade is carried by road over their mountainous frontier.

The sources said the ministers would discuss switching the oil shipments to rail, which would minimise risks of disruption through Iraqi attacks in the Gulf. The proposed pipeline is expected to be completed in about two years at a cost of up to \$4 billion.

Government plans to issue bonds

Saudis keep markets guessing

BAHRAIN, Feb 9, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's plan to borrow for the first time in 25 years has turned into a guessing game for the kingdom's financial markets, but signs are growing that a debut offering of government bonds will be made soon.

Six weeks after a 30-million-riyal (\$8 billion) programme to offer bonds was announced by King Fahd in his 1988 budget address, little concrete detail has emerged.

But a clear indication the plan is still on track came today when a senior official in Riyadh said the first issue would be launched soon.

Unsettled

In an interview with the Arabic daily Asharq Al Awsat, Deputy Finance Minister Saleh Al Omair confirmed what markets had expected—that the bonds would be offered only to the kingdom's domestic banks and a few selected government funds. That would exclude private Saudi or foreign investors.

But he did not elaborate on the timing of an issue except to say "soon," leaving bankers to pursue their guessing game.

"The markets are unsettled and just waiting for the first issue," said one senior banker in the kingdom. "But we are really guessing in the dark."

Saudi Arabia's decision to issue bonds is part of a drive throughout the Gulf to develop markets and bridge budget gaps at a time of weak oil revenue.

In Saudi Arabia, four years of budget deficit totalling over 170 billion riyals (\$45 billion) made it imperative to avoid further strain on reserves when covering a projected 1988 shortfall of 35.9 billion riyals (\$9.6 billion).

Scant details of the bonds have emerged and there has been no official word from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (Sama) which is coordinating plans.

What is clear, bankers say, is that the bonds will offer a return by being issued at a discount to face value. That will avoid a con-

flict with an Islamic ban on interest payments.

Four banks have been quietly sounded out by Sama—the kingdom's two all-Saudi institutions, National Commercial Bank and Riyadh Bank plus two joint-ventures, Saudi American Bank and Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi, known as "Saudi French".

Offering

Bankers generally expect a first offering could come in March for a relatively small amount to test market reaction.

"A first offering of 2.5 billion riyals (\$670 million) would be less than 10 per cent of the total volume and manageable... it would be a good way for Sama to dip its toe in the water," said one banker.

The decision to borrow breaks a 25-year-old taboo for the Saudi government. That dates back to the late 1950s and early 1960s when budget extravagance and mounting debt unleashed a political and financial crisis in the kingdom.

Since then, major infrastructure and arms investments have been paid for by a mixture of cash and oil barter and only in the past few years has a short-term money market instrument been developed to regulate liquidity in the banking system.

Precedent

Sama and the finance ministry could point to this as a precedent if the borrowing plan runs into opposition from Saudi Arabia's conservative religious groups.

Bankers say objections from religious groups, which have resisted the development of Saudi capital markets along Western banking lines, were at the root of the closure last year of the kingdom's first stock market trading floor after just three weeks of operation.

"It is essential that the bond issue goes ahead and is seen to be a success," said another banker.

Flow

Just how urgently Saudi Arabia needs to issue bonds for its day-to-day cash flow is unclear.

Some bankers believe King Fahd's decision in January to revoke a controversial plan to tax foreigners has increased pressure for an early offering since some six billion riyals (\$1.6 billion) revenue will be lost.

But that cash would have been raised only gradually in 1988 by monthly deductions from pay cheques.

Bankers also argue that other measures to increase revenue are slowly being phased in, lessening the need to rush to the market with bonds and a series of large issues.

Charges

Telephone charges are being increased for the first time in 14 years and a road tax has been introduced for the first time.

But the major consideration remains oil where revenue is still slack. Saudi Arabia's output last month was around 300,000 barrels below its Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' quota of 4.343 million barrels per day and price discounts were granted to major US companies.

'Industry-wide cooperation imperative'

Lukman confident oil prices will remain stable

CALGARY, Canada, Feb 9, (Reuters): The president of Opec has urged non-member producer countries to help support oil prices and said a price range of \$18 to 20 per barrel could be maintained throughout this year.

"As things stand at present... we believe that a general price range of \$18 to 20 per barrel can be maintained for crude oil throughout this year, providing all the market participants act responsibly, with the long-term interests of the industry at heart," Rikman Lukman told a closed oil industry meeting in Calgary yesterday.

A copy of the speech by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries president was obtained by Reuters.

Lukman, who is Nigerian Minister of Petroleum Resources, said Opec members

sacrifices in defending prices had been painful and made more so by non-members' actions.

"It is no easy task for a single-product country to cut back on output, when prices have just fallen sharply in the market due, in large part, to other producers' selfishness, and when there is a natural inclination to produce as much as possible to salvage at least something from a desperate situation," he said.

Requests

Lukman said that Opec members "have no wish to embark on a course of confrontation per se. If, instead, there were a dynamic, universal approach to energy planning, it would carry many advantages."

"If more than lip-service had been paid to our requests for cooperation last year, at a time when the appalling economic devastation of 1986 was still

fresh in people's minds, then we should not be experiencing the present uncertainty on the spot market, and its ripple effect onto a broader economic landscape," the Opec president said.

He said industry-wide cooperation was imperative to avoid a recurrence of the catastrophic events of 1986.

He noted that Opec members agreed last December to restrict overall output excluding Iraq's to 15.06 million barrels per day in the first half of 1988, and added, "this output target, even allowing for Iraq's output, represents only about half of our organisation's production capacity."

In brief remarks to Reuters outside the private club where the speech was held, Lukman declined to give an estimate of current Opec output.

Asked if Nigeria was talking to Canadian companies about buy-

ing refineries, he said, "we haven't started that yet."

Asked if Nigeria planned to begin such a move, he smiled and said, "I don't know."

Buying Canadian or US refineries is one way an Opec member could ensure that its oil would be purchased and represents a new strategy by the organisation members to gain a larger share of the world oil market.

He concluded that "the prospects for this year are encouraging on the whole, but hinge upon all the market participants adopting a positive, responsible attitude towards pricing and production policies and towards each other."

Meanwhile, the Bank of International Settlements said the net assets of the Opec countries in the commercial banks rose by \$2.4 billion between June and September last year, to reach \$34.7

billion.

In a report on third-quarter banking developments, the BIS, the central banks' clearing house, recorded the 13 Opec states' total deposits in the commercial banks in September at \$157.01 billion and their loans at \$122.27 billion.

The Opec states with the worst third-quarter "overdrafts" were Venezuela, with outstanding loans of \$25 billion and deposits of \$16.7 billion, and Indonesia, at 18 billion and \$5.85 billion respectively.

Healthier

By contrast, the Arab Gulf members of Opec had a much healthier overall position with the banks.

Kuwait led September net assets of \$6.65 billion, although these were slightly down on June levels.

US criticises trading partners but rejects protectionism

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 9, (Reuters): US Treasury Secretary James Baker criticised America's trading partners yesterday for not importing more US goods but said protectionist curbs were not the answer to the nation's trade deficit.

In a speech to the National Cotton Council of America, Baker said the attitude of many successful exporting nations that imports were bad represented a major threat to global economic prosperity.

"This perspective poses a serious threat to a trading system that is based on a belief in the benefits of open market and expanded trade," Baker said.

Although he mentioned no names, Baker appeared to be taking aim at countries like Japan and West Germany which have run up record trade surpluses with the United States.

He also attacked the new industrial giants of the developing world for contributing to trade imbalances by being too slow to buy more American goods.

Once again, Baker did not say

which countries he had in mind, but other US officials have been very critical of what they see as restrictive trade practices by the "four dragons" of Asia—South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Baker was speaking hours before the Iowa precinct caucuses, the first test of voter sentiment in this year's presidential race.

Surpluses

Democratic contender Richard Gephardt, a Missouri Congressman, is expected to do well in Iowa on a platform that calls for the United States to retaliate against countries that fail to reduce their trade surpluses with America.

But Baker said the way forward was through hardheaded negotiations, not protectionism.

"Pressure to adjust US trade policy must not take a negative, unilateral form. Trade liberalisation is achievable, and we will prosper from it," Baker said.

He held out as a model the US-Canada free trade pact signed last month which will reduce tariffs and eliminate other

barriers to the flow of goods between the world's two largest trading partners.

Bilateral trade between the United States and Canada was \$127 billion in 1986, exceeding the 107 billion of goods traded with Japan and the 126 billion in two-way trade between America and the 12 nations of the European Economic Community.

The free trade pact, which must still be approved by legislators in both countries, should reduce protectionist pressures and spur other nations to free trade, Baker said.

He hoped trade barriers would be dismantled under the auspices of the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the world trade watchdog body. But Baker said Washington was willing to explore bilateral or "mini-lateral" trade pacts if necessary.

"If activity on one frontier of trade negotiations slows, we may be able to maintain momentum and achieve solutions worthy of imitation through other agreements," he said.

Angola predicts big jump in oil output in '88

LISBON, Feb 9, (Reuters): Angola predicted a big jump in its crude oil production today, saying output would rise from 300,000 barrels per day to 430,000 this year.

A brief report by the official Angolan news agency Angop, quoting the state oil company Sonangol, said over 30 new wells would be drilled for exploration and 36 existing wells would be developed in 1988.

The oil should bring in \$2 billion in hard currency revenues, said the Angop dispatch, monitored in Lisbon.

"Sonangol estimates that Angola oil production will reach an average of 430,000 barrels per day this year," said Angop.

"Currently production is running at just over 300,000 a year."

Angolan sources said the strong rise was probably due to increased investment.

Angop said new investment in the oil sector should reach \$700 million this year. Sonangol had invested \$1.3 billion in the last 10 years, it said.

The report echoed predictions last month by the two largest foreign oil companies operating

in Angola of a big jump in the country's crude production over the next three years.

US Chevron Corp's subsidiary, Cabinda Gulf Oil Company, predicted its output in the offshore fields near the Cabinda enclave would rise to 300,000 barrels per day by 1990 after 231,000 last year.

Forecast

France's Societe Nationale Elf-Aquitaine has also forecast a rise to 150,000 barrels a day in 1990 after 82,000 in 1987 in its block 3 offshore zone.

The Angop report said Angola had signed 10 contracts in the last 10 years granting exploring and extracting concessions to foreign firms. Sonangol maintains a controlling 51 per cent stake in these blocks.

Angola does not belong to the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and is currently estimated to be pumping more than Opec members Gabon, Qatar and Equador.

Revenues from oil, Angola's main export, are used largely to finance the foreign debt and to pay for imports.

Wool prices reach record levels

Sheep come to the aid of Australia

CANBERRA, Feb 9, (Reuters): Australia's prosperity is said to have been built on the back of sheep—and they have again come to the rescue in time for the country's bicentennial celebrations.

Wool prices have reached record levels, with stockpiles dwindling as international buyers clamour to snap up all grades from the finest to the heaviest grade.

The wool upsurge is expected to earn Australia 5.1 billion dollars (\$3.6 billion) in export revenues in the financial year to the end of June, replacing coal as top export earner.

Coal exports are estimated to produce 4.9 billion dollars (\$3.5 billion) in 1987/88.

Income

The extra income is welcome news for Australia, which has a net overseas debt currently running at 81 billion dollars (\$59 billion).

It is also a welcome change for Australia's farmers, who were giving sheep away or even paying

for their removal for slaughter in the early 1980s when demand for wool was low and the country was hit by drought.

Australia's reliance on sheep goes back to 1788, when the first British settlers brought them over, ostensibly to fend off starvation.

As the colony expanded, Merino sheep from other parts of Europe, mainly Spain, were imported and bred with South African fat-tails to produce fine wool for British mills.

Two hundred years later, wool played a major part in bicentennial celebrations, with Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana guests of honour at Sydney Opera House on January 31 to watch a wool fashion show broadcast to 500 million television viewers around the globe.

As the world watched, 160 million sheep, outnumbering Australia's population 10 to one, quietly cropped the grasslands. Sheep numbers are expected to rise to 180 million by 1991.

Australia attributes the

current wool boom to the low value of the Australian dollar, rising incomes in major wool buying countries, a rush to snap up stocks and promotion campaigns.

Prices for all types of Australian wool, ranging from coarse wool to the finer microns much sought after by Japanese buyers, have increased by 50 per cent in the past year.

Average

The market indicator, a weighted average across 13 categories of wool, passed the 1,000 cents (714 US cents) a kilo mark in late January and is now at 1,052 cents (755 US cents).

The finest Merino wool is averaging 2,207 cents (1,576 US) a kilo clean, compared with 876 cents (625 US) a kilo a year ago.

The Australian Wool Corporation's stocks, built up by purchases through a wooler-owned-financed market support fund when prices were low, are down to 89,000 bales (a bale averages 170 kilos), the lowest since 1974 and a fraction of the

record level of more than a million bales.

When demand is high, the corporation sells wool from its stocks and returns the funds to the farmers.

Peter Taylor, who runs 20,000 sheep in the arid Monaro region of the southeast corner of New South Wales state, estimates Australia's sheep farmers have had a rough time in the last 20 years.

But he is now optimistic about the next few years and agrees with wool industry sources who, although they don't expect the boom to last, anticipate the price will settle at an average of around 850 cents (607 US) a kilo for clean wool for the season ending June 30.

Increase

This would be an increase of 36 per cent over the 1986/87 average of 626 cents (447 US) a kilo.

"Farmers will be able to start mending their fences again and buying fertilizer for the grass. They've also got machinery to buy," Taylor said.

World Business Summary

Incentives to boost inter-Arab capital flow, says Hassan

A LARGE number of Islamic banks and finance houses have sought from the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC) insurance, according to Islamic laws, for their investment and financial operations, a senior Arab business executive said in Kuwait yesterday. IAIGC director general, Ma'amoun Hassan, added that the corporation has found a real customers' need for a new Islamic-oriented mechanism for ensuring investments, exports and financial operations. Hassan, delivering the opening address at a two-day symposium on guarantees under Islamic laws, pointed out that Islamic financial institutions have been hesitant about entering deals according to IAIGC's two main direct and indirect insurance covers. Facing such hesitation, the executive said, IAIGC held expanded meetings with representatives of Islamic financial and investment institutions, some Islamic scholars and insurance executives to lay down insurance mechanisms in line with Islamic laws. "As more Islamic banks and financial institutions, investors and traders revert to the Shari'a (Islamic laws) a need has risen for a new tool of guaranteeing and encouraging investments and financial operations," the prominent Arab executive said.

Hassan argued that IAIGC's secular guarantee system was "the fruit of cooperation among Arab states to achieve economic and social development in the public interest."

Hassan stressed that IAIGC which was founded to accelerate Arab economic integration and development, will provide all incentives to capital flow between Arab states.

He said that the corporation would go to length in broadening the base of beneficiaries from its services to include Islamic traders and investors to the extent allowed by IAIGC bylaws. The executive noted that the corporation has developed a full-fledged mechanism for inter-Arab exports guarantee, in line with its responsibility of increasing trade exchanges between Arab countries.

Turkish group offers lowest bid for third Bosphorus bridge

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Feb 9, (AP): A leading Turkish construction company offered the lowest bid for the building of a third bridge over the Bosphorus Strait, officials announced today. Sezi Turkis-Fevzi Akkaya (STFA) cited a cost of \$171.5 million. Its nearest rival was a consortium of Britain's Cleveland Engineering Company and Turkey's Eski Construction Company with a bid of \$248.8 million. STFA is currently building the second Bosphorus bridge in partnership with Japanese and Italian companies. The British Cleveland Engineering had built the first bridge over the Bosphorus, which opened to traffic in 1973.

A Cleveland spokesman, who asked that his name not be used, said they still had a good chance to win the tender because the British government was expected to extend grant aid of \$61 million toward the cost of the construction. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who will pay an official visit to Turkey in April, reportedly is eager to see a British company win the contract.

Other bids opened during a ceremony at City Hall today were \$258 million from a consortium of Turkey's Eski Company and Italy's Impregilo Grassetto and CMF, and \$441 million from the Dutch firm Ballast Nedam. All groups have accepted a Turkish plan to build, run for profit and turn over the bridge to Turkey after 12 years. Also, all groups promised to bring in credits covering the full cost of construction. STFA offered to build the bridge in three years while Eski-Cleveland Group required 4-12 years. The third bridge is to be built between Ortakoy on the European side of the Strait and Makkastepe on the Anatolian side, about 500 metres (yards) south of the first bridge.

Pakistan trade balance improves

ISLAMABAD, Feb 9, (Xinhua): A Pakistani senior official said yesterday that the country's trade balance has shown remarkable improvement during the last few years thanks to its improved management of foreign trade exports-imports ratio. In an interview with the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) here yesterday, Minister of State for Commerce Khusro Salih Khan said that Pakistan's trade position has gradually improved since 1984-85. The trade deficit stood at \$3,415 million in 1984-85 and it dropped to \$1,696 million during the last fiscal year indicating a 52 per cent improvement.

The trade gap was further reduced to \$846 million in the first five months of the current fiscal year (July-November of 1987). Explaining the measures he said that emphasis was being given to greater linkage of imports with exports in bilateral dealings with those countries where balance was not in favour of Pakistan. The Pakistan government has set up joint ministerial commissions with the European Economic Community (EEC), the United States, Japan, South Korea, Iran and Turkey to achieve more balance trade with all these major partners. In case of Japan, Pakistan's biggest trading partner with 46 per cent share in the whole foreign trade, a Pak-Japan business cooperation committee has been formed on chamber level which meets every year. In the meeting held in 1986, the committee decided to set up an export promotion advisory council to provide market information to Pakistani exporters.

The minister said that Pakistan has signed several barter agreements with East European countries to promote export with them. The Soviet Union is a major trading partner of Pakistan with a turnover of \$118 million. Trade agreements have been concluded with a number of countries and new agreements are being initiated with the UAE, Morocco, the Sudan and China to promote bilateral trade.

S. Korean surplus doubles

SEOUL, Feb 9, (Reuters): Helped by soaring exports and increased tourism, South Korea's current account surplus neared \$10 billion in 1987, Bank of Korea officials said today. The current account, which includes trade in goods and services, showed a surplus of \$9.8 billion last year, up from \$4.6 billion in 1986, the central banks officials said today. Exports in 1987 totalled \$46.2 billion, up 36.2 per cent from 1986, and imports rose by 29.7 per cent to 38.5 billion, they said. Bank officials attributed the surge in exports to brisk shipments of cars, electronics, machinery and textiles. Tourism earnings rose to \$2.3 billion in 1987 from 1.55 billion in 1986. The December current account surplus widened to \$942 million from \$87 million in November and 478 million in December 1986. Government officials have said South Korea wants to hold current account surplus to about \$6 billion in 1988 to evade trade frictions with its major trading partners.

UAE oil minister to visit Japan

ABU DHABI, Feb 9, (Opecna): Dr Mana Saeed Otaibi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the UAE is scheduled to leave for Japan on Saturday for a series of meetings aimed at promoting bilateral energy relations.

During the week-long visit the minister is expected to meet Japanese Premier Noburo Takeshita, former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and leading officials and oil company executives.

Officials here said the talks would focus on bilateral relations in energy fields and cover the latest developments in the international oil market and Opec's efforts at stabilising crude prices. The UAE is Japan's most important supplier of crude—catering for around 20 per cent of the Asian nation's oil needs of 3.20 million bpd—in addition to providing quantities of natural gas under long-term contracts dating back to 1976. Japan exports electronic goods, machinery and a variety of foodstuff to the UAE. Otaibi, who will be accompanied by high-ranking Oil Ministry officials and directors of oil companies operating in the UAE, is also due to chair two meetings of the Abu Dhabi Oil Company (Adoc-Japan Ltd) and the emirate's gas liquefaction concern. The discussions will review the companies' activities in 1987 and this year's operational plans.

Bahrain issues credit risk framework to banks on provisions

BAHRAIN, Feb 9. (Reuters): Bahrain's monetary authorities have drawn up a framework for assessing credit risk to help banks determine the level of loan loss provisions for countries and borrowers with payments difficulties.

The Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said today it issued details to all banks incorporated on the island but added it had emphasised the system "should not be regarded as an exhaustive or definitive framework."

The move, announced as Bahrain's major banks are declaring 1987 results, follows an international trend towards increasing provisioning against Third World debt.

The BMA said in a statement it had in recent years consistently encouraged adequate provisions against loans to borrowers or countries experiencing repayment difficulties.

The agency added the framework was issued "in encouraging banks to ensure that they have adequate levels of provisions and to assist in the process of determining the necessary extent of provisioning."

Bankers said it was based on a points system designed to access credit risk on a sliding scale.

Bahrain's biggest offshore bank Arah Banking Corporation said last week it had set aside \$375 million in loan provisions in its 1987 accounts and declared zero profit.

A consortium bank with heavy Latin American debt exposure, Arlabank International, declared a \$132 million 1987 loss earlier in the month and set aside \$129 million in loan provisions.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb 9. (Reuters): Prices closed sharply weaker as all sectors came under selling pressure after poor performance on overseas markets. The All Ordinaries index closed 22.6 points, 1.8 pct, lower at 1,180.6.

TOKYO: Share prices closed down in thin, lifeless trade due mainly to weaker share markets overseas and caution ahead of Friday's scheduled release of US December trade figures. The Nikkei Average lost 109.33 points or 0.46 per cent to 23,662.27.

HONG KONG: Prices closed almost unchanged after early selling by small investors was overtaken by institutional support. The Hang Seng index shed 0.52 point to 2,223.04.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed easier over a broad front for the fourth consecutive day in lacklustre trade. The Straits Times industrial index fell 7.40 points to 851.82.

BOMBAY: Share prices closed mixed in alternate but limited bouts of speculative buying and selling. Scattered short-covering helped the market recover partially at the close after two days of decline.

FRANKFURT: Prices were mostly little changed but selected stocks made sizeable gains on the dollar's rise. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, was down 5.5 at 1,263.4.

ZURICH: Prices eased in lacklustre trading amid caution ahead of Friday's scheduled release of US trade figures. At the close, the All-Swiss index was down 6.5 at 78.9.

LONDON: Prices were firm but volume was low on nagging worries about the outlook for British interest rates and current industrial disputes. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 11.7 at 1,706.2.

The Tenders summarised below are invited by the Central Tenders Committee on behalf of Government Ministries and other concerned authorities. The relevant documents may be obtained from the office of the Central Tenders Committee during office hours against payment of non-refundable fee as shown therein. Unless otherwise stipulated all relevant offers shall remain valid for a period of 90 days with effect from the closing date.

Tender No. MEW/22/4127-87/88
Tender's Internal No: 635/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Elec. & Water

Requirements: Supply of lift pipes and accessories for Umna Qadair Field Expansion & Kabads Projects
Relevant fee: KD 20

Initial guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Tuesday, 22.3.88

Tender No. MEW/22/140-87/88
Tender's Internal No: 634/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Elec. & Water

Requirements: Supply of safety tools & materials for electrical power & water distribution station.
Relevant fee: KD 20

Initial guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 20.3.88

Tender No. MEW/22/132-87/88
Tender's Internal No: 645/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Elec. & Water

Requirements: Maintenance of gardens in Shuaiba electrical power & water station.
Relevant fee: KD 20

Saudis open petrochemical investment to private sector

BAHRAIN, Feb 9. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia is opening up its petrochemical industry to the private sector, a move that could send a new generation of cheap products flooding onto world markets.

Saudi businessmen say billions of dollars sent abroad during the oil boom could be lured home for investment in what has become the hot spot in an economy reeling from declining government oil revenues.

"A major hold-up of the private sector now seems to be abating," said one industry source.

Over the last year or so, the ministry of industry has awarded a series of licences to private companies to build plants, and government officials say many other large projects are on the way.

Plant
A visionary plan in the 1970s aimed to diversify the Saudi economy from its near total dependence on oil, and over the last ten years two industrial cities, Jubail and Yanbu, were carved out of the desert on either side of the east-west oil pipeline

running from the Gulf to the Red Sea.

About a dozen state-owned petrochemical plants and oil refineries were built to convert natural gas and crude oil to petrochemicals and refined oil products. Their output was designed to spawn a generation of intermediate plants and later a myriad of light industries.

But private businessmen say that, until recently, their attempts to get a piece of the action had been thwarted, and that this was hindering development of the cities as a whole.

Projects
"When you drive through Yanbu you see all these empty plots of land that were supposed to have had downstream plants on them," said an executive of private Saudi corporation. "The lack of construction at Jubail and Yanbu is directly related to the private sector's inability to get at them."

Licences to build the downstream plants were originally given to the state-controlled Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp (Sabic), which, according to Saudi businessmen, was loath

to give them up even if it didn't have the resources to go it alone.

One industry source says at least 30 private projects have been submitted without being given a go-ahead. "There was never any flat out rejection, but this was part of the problem."

While government officials admit to a delay, they say licences were held back mainly to give Sabic time to prepare a master plan for the petrochemical industry.

But, late last year, three licences were awarded to the Saudi Venture Capital Group (SVCG), formed in 1986 by 30 Saudi investors and a local joint venture with the US Flour Corporation.

SVCG is to build a 677 million riyal (\$180 million) plant to produce 67,660 tonnes per year of maleic anhydride, a raw material used in pesticides and other products.

Plant
It will also build a 600 million riyal (\$160 million) plant to produce 34,245 tonnes per year of polyethylene resins and resins, a plastic used in making bottles. A third plant will produce one million tonnes per

year of aromatics, used to make polyester resins.

The local Saudi Amoudi Group has a licence for a second, smaller maleic anhydride plant and the recently-formed Safra Ltd of Jeddah will build a \$35 million plant to produce 70,000 tonnes of solvents per year.

Government officials say another two licences were awarded for formaldehyde plants and Sabic has agreed to make polypropylene with SVCG.

Saudis say capital-intensive petrochemicals, which rely on cheap energy and feedstock but require relatively little manpower, are the perfect industry for the desert kingdom.

Boom
During the peak of the oil boom, the Saudis were bringing in around \$2 billion a week in oil revenue. Much of the money fell into the hands of businessmen who invested it overseas, but who now say they are anxious to bring it back home to invest.

Industry sources say that because of the Gulf war, most if not all the investment will be made in Yanbu safely on the far side of the Arabian Peninsula.

Businessmen still await word on other potentially lucrative industries such as acrylonitrile, isopropanol, acetone, isoprene, vinyl acetate and polyisoprene.

Goods
The product of the new plants is used to make goods ranging from polyesters, carpets, nylon and films to pesticides, paints, adhesives and detergents — and Saudi industry planners hope that new industries will be set up to make them locally.

However, investors say the bulk of production will be sent to international markets, especially in the Far East and Europe.

Until now, products from Jubail and Yanbu's first generation of petrochemical plants have had their access to European and US markets hindered by tariffs.

Saudi officials hope that by diversifying the product range the country will have more flexibility in negotiations abroad.

The less cooperation we get from the West on tariffs the more we will concentrate on developing our own industry," one senior government official told Reuters.

Gold lacks lustre

LONDON, Feb 9. (Reuters): The price of gold is at its lowest nearly 10 months and bullion analysts are saying it may have further to fall because investors are worrying less just now about inflation and about volatility in the stock markets.

Analysts said today that the price, down around \$40 an ounce or about eight per cent since the start of 1988, has also been pressured by gold loans which allow mines to sell bullion borrowed from banks against their future output. Gold was quoted in London at \$438.60 an ounce this afternoon after touching a 9-1/2-month low last week above \$436. It made a four-year high of just over \$500 in December. One London broker, Kleinworth Grevson, said today the market may be witnessing the end of a three-year upward trend.

Recovery
Unless there was a rapid recovery, the market faced a long period weakness, and the outlook for further falls, with \$380 to 400 an ounce a medium term target, it said in its latest monthly report.

Analyst Neil Buxton of brokers Shearson Lehman Bros said the price of gold could dip to \$425. There has also been selling this month from South Africa — by far the biggest producer which supplies just over half of the West's needs — Australia and Eastern European nations. Gold is widely seen as a safe haven for investors in times of trouble or uncertainty. But it disappointed its fans by not taking off after the 'Black Monday' October stock market crash, climbing only slowly to its four-year-high in December.

Sold
Some investors apparently sold gold to cover losses in stocks. Another reason for its sluggish performance was that inflation has not been much of a threat lately — gold is a safe but costly investment if inflation is slow, because it pays no interest income.

It peaked at \$850 an ounce in January 1980, in a time of recession and high inflation. Recently, signs that the US economy is slowing down and weak oil prices have dampened inflation fears among investors. When the United States and other industrial nations tamed inflation in 1981-82, the price of gold fell away, reaching a cyclical low of \$297 in mid-1982.

This week the market was particularly pressured by reports that Newmont Mining Corporation of the United States might raise a one million ounce (30 tone) gold loan. No details of the deal have been confirmed. Gold loans are used to refinance existing borrowings or finance mine development.

Loans
London broker E D and F Man in a monthly review said these loans could seriously distort the market if they become widespread. "This method of borrowing tomorrow's output to sell today has, in other markets, ended in calamitous results. Still, analysts expected it would take a lot to turn investors completely off gold. Used until this century to make coins for circulation, it now has little everyday use outside dentistry and jewellery but remains a popular investment. Gold bars are an important element of many countries' financial reserves, hoarded in bank vaults such as those at Fort Knox, Tennessee, which house the huge US stocks.

Fresh move to manage trading more effectively, says Phelan

Possible subversion of selling rule investigated

NEW YORK, Feb 9. (AP): Rumours that an important stock-selling rule was widely ignored or subverted during the October crash prompted the New York Stock Exchange and federal Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate, the stock exchange's chairman says.

"You have an obligation, once you hear so much static, to take a look, and take a reasonably good look," John J. Phelan said yesterday in an interview with the Associated Press.

He also said the stock exchange is considering ways to manage trading more effectively in so-called baskets of stocks, crucial components of computerised selling strategies that some studies have linked to the market's collapse.

Rule
Phelan said the exchange and SEC were looking into possible violation of the "uptick rule," which bans the sale of borrowed stock except in instances when the previous sale raised the stock's price. That is called an uptick on Wall Street.

Phelan said the queries were a response to persistent rumours

about subversion of the uptick rule, which was enacted during the great depression of the 1930s as part of an effort to curb market manipulation and other abuses that helped trigger the crash of 1929.

Although the rumours have been around for a long time, Phelan said, they intensified after the October crash.

"We talked to them (the SEC) a couple of months ago and said we were going out there and would appreciate it if they looked, and they had people out there for a couple of months," Phelan said.

Evidence
No solid evidence has emerged that the uptick rule was subverted, he said. Part of the problem in investigating, he said, is the enormous volume of modern-day stock transactions, which can obscure questionable trades.

Gary Lynch, SEC enforcement director, had no comment on Phelan's remarks. As a matter of policy, the SEC generally does not comment on its investigations.

Phelan said initial concern over uptick-rule violations arose

because of questions about computerised programme trading, a controversial practice involving simultaneous trading of stocks in one market and correspondence stock-index futures in another market to profit from price disparities.

Traders using this technique buy the cheaper of the two securities and sell the dearer.

Speculators
If speculators get into the market by selling stock they don't own and buying parallel stock index futures, they could be in violation of the uptick rule if the stock is sold without an uptick.

This could have been especially significant on Black Monday, Oct 19, because virtually all stocks tumbled in price, and the declines may have been accelerated by possible uptick-rule violators.

Phelan spoke against a background of enormous hostility toward programme trading, blamed by several studies for injecting volatility into the stock market and frightening millions of ordinary investors.

Last week, the stock exchange

moved to permanently restrict the use of its computers for executing programme traders, and one major programme trader, Goldman Sachs and Co., said it would stop using that strategy for its own account.

In what could amount to a further limitation on programme trading, Phelan also said the stock exchange is considering whether to restrict trading in big baskets of stocks that represent index futures traded in Chicago, such as the major market index of 20 stocks or the 500 stocks that comprise the Standard and Poor's index.

Stocks
Quickly selling and buying baskets of stocks is integral to the programme trading strategy. But Phelan said it was basket selling that swayed the market on Oct 19 and helped set in motion the worst stock panic of modern times.

"They just overwhelmed everything," Phelan said. "You might have had other things, you know, and something may have exacerbated something else, but clearly it was baskets, and that begot everything else."

W. German trade team for Kuwait

A TRADE delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany headed by the Minister of Finance of the Land of Berlin (West), Dr Gunter Rexrodt, will visit Kuwait on Saturday. The main aim of the visit is to strengthen the business relations between Kuwait and Berlin, as one of the most important industrial cities in Europe.

West Berlin with about 2 million inhabitants and a GDP of around DM 7 billion has a very diversified industrial profile with companies active in the high technology, chemical, machinery, fashion etc. sectors. Beyond that, it is also one of the financial and cultural centres of Germany.

Exports
West Berlin will host the 1988 IMF/World Bank annual meetings at the end of September when about 10 thousand financial experts are expected.

Due to its skillful labour force and the very advantageous tax situation, West Berlin is also one of the most interesting places of direct investments.

December trade figures seen critical for financial markets

NEW YORK, Feb 9. (Reuters): US trade figures due on Friday may not match the dramatic 25 per cent drop in the November deficit but they need to assure the markets that the nation's trade performance is gradually improving, economists say.

They predict the deficit for December will fall between \$11.5 billion and \$14.6 billion, with most estimates centering around \$13 billion to \$13.5 billion.

Last month the Commerce Department reported the November shortfall shrank to \$13.22 billion from October's record \$17.6 billion, touching off a rally in the financial markets and lifting the dollar from post-war lows.

Improvement
"November showed too much of an improvement (in the deficit) for one month," said manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. economist Charles Lieberman, who predicted the December trade gap would rise to \$13.8 billion.

His forecast, which assumes a rise in car imports and a decline in aircraft exports to more normal levels, is still more encouraging

than the Commerce Department's fourth-quarter gross national product report, which suggests a \$14.2 billion deficit.

While economists are not in agreement on the size in the December shortfall, they do agree the monthly figures can be misleading because they are not seasonally adjusted.

"Most of the volatility in the reported trade figures has to do with normal seasonality and carryover, not substantive changes in trend," said Goldman Sachs economist Jason Benderly.

Exports
Carryover, exports shipped in one month but reported the next month because of delays in paperwork, rose to \$1.7 billion in November after being relatively constant at \$700 million in the months through October.

First Boston Corporation economist Jonathan Francis said the believed seasonal factors would heavily influence the December figures, and the forecast a deficit of \$13 billion.

"(A deficit of) \$13 billion is normal for December," he said,

adding that this would not represent a substantive improvement.

The trade deficit for last year should come to a record \$174 billion, Francis said, but he expects the shortfall to decline this year to about \$160 billion—still above the 1986 deficit.

"Over the next several months we should see some encouraging figures because of the seasonals, but then it gets worse," he said.

Surge
Economists generally view November's huge 9.4 per cent surge in exports as an exaggeration. Export growth is likely to remain strong, they said, but unlikely to keep rising at that pace.

IBJ Schroder Bank and Trust Co. economist Aubrey Zaffuto said he expected the trade deficit to shrink to \$11.5 billion, reflecting a further decline in imports.

Zaffuto noted that the import quotas for several commodities and goods had been reached before the end of the year. Demand for imports should also be restrained as retailers try to reduce their swollen inventories.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Initial guarantee: 2-1/2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 20.3.88

N.B.: A pre-tender meeting shall be held at 10.00 a.m. on 28.2.88 at Shuaiba station to acquaint with the nature of works and answer the tenderer's queries.

Tender No. PT/1/88/88
Tender's Internal No: 096/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Education

Requirements: Supply & installation of air conditioning units for seven schools in 1st area.

Relevant fee: KD 20
Initial guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 6.3.88

Tender No. PT/5/88-88
Tender's Internal No: 639/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Education

Requirements: Supply & installation of air conditioning units for seven schools in 2nd area.

Relevant fee: KD 20
Initial guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 6.3.88

N.B.: This tender is open for contractors classified in 2nd, 3rd & 4th categories of air conditioning works.

Tender No. PT/7/88-88
Tender's Internal No: 640/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Education

Requirements: Supply & installation of air conditioning units for eight schools in 1st area.

Relevant fee: KD 20
Initial guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Tuesday 8.3.88

N.B.: This tender is open for contractors classified in 2nd, 3rd & 4th categories of air conditioning works.

Tender No. PT/7/88-88
Tender's Internal No: 649/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Education

Requirements: Supply & installation of air conditioning units for seven schools in 1st area.

Relevant fee: KD 30
Initial guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 13.3.88

N.B.: This tender is open for contractors classified in 2nd, 3rd & 4th categories of air conditioning works.

Tender No. P/5/88/88
Tender's Internal No: 633/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Public Health

Requirements: Supply of frozen meats

Relevant fee: KD 20
Initial guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Tuesday, 22.3.88

Tender No. L.P.B./14/87/88
Tender's Internal No: 631/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Public Health

Requirements: Supply of... for construction Engineering Projects (as mentioned in Arabic Kuwaiti Aiyoun)

Requirements: Supply of fresh eggs & chicken

Relevant fee: KD 20
Initial guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 20.3.88

Tender No. P/5/88/88
Tender's Internal No: 632/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Public Health

Requirements: Supply of frozen meats

Relevant fee: KD 20
Initial guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Tuesday, 22.3.1988

Tender No. L.P.B./14/87/88
Tender's Internal No: 631/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Public Health

Requirements: Supply of... for construction Engineering Projects (as mentioned in Arabic Kuwaiti Aiyoun)

Relevant fee: KD 20
Initial guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 13.3.88

Tender No. EPC/1/88
Tender's Internal No: 641/88
Concerned party: Environment Protection Council

Requirements: Supply, installation & operation of materials & equipments for oil marine pollution

Relevant fee: KD 20
Initial guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Tuesday, 22.3.88

Sea transport agreement to be reviewed

ANKARA, Feb 9. (Reuters): Turkey and Egypt are expected to reach a sea transport agreement and discuss ways to reduce a trade imbalance during meetings of their joint economic committee in Cairo this week, official sources said today.

A Turkish delegation headed by State Minister Adnan Kahveci leaves for Cairo tomorrow for two days of talks.

The sources gave no details of the projected sea transport agreement but said Egypt was likely to seek ways for Turkey to reduce the trade imbalance.

Dollar firms

British stocks claw back

LONDON, Feb 9. (Reuters): Shares on London's Stock Exchange rallied today after a sharp drop on Monday which had reflected fears about strikes in British industry and of a rise in Britain's interest rates.

Earlier shares retreated in Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market. At its start in Europe, the dollar edged higher to open just below 1,7940 West German marks — ahead of key-US trade statistics on Friday.

"Maybe the (trade) figures are being treated as over-optimistic, but for the last couple of months the market hasn't been able to find anything else to give it direction," a Frankfurt currency dealer said.

Worried
Friday's figures will be for the size of the US December trade deficit. A further narrowing, after a November deficit of \$13.22 billion after 17.63 billion in October, would help the dollar.

London's FTSE index of 100 leading blue-chip shares opened

at 1,700 points, 5.5 points higher than Monday's close, although 74.4 points down on a week ago.

British investors are worried about the possibility that interest rates are headed higher, following a rise in bank base lending rates of half a percentage point to nine per cent last week.

Several independent forecasters this week have said rising wage settlements and fast money growth are fuelling inflation and think the government might raise interest rates again to choke the process.

Down
Strikes by coal pit deputies, seamen and most importantly manual workers at Ford in Britain have heightened the fears.

Other analysts said rates might be raised to defend the pound sterling. London dealers however doubted the authorities would move unless the pound weakened sharply on the present rash of strikes.

"Sterling's not doing anything particularly untoward at the

moment," said one British bank dealer. "The economists are talking it down but markets don't really go along with that."

The pound at 1100 GMT was worth \$1.7452 and 2.9733 marks, after 1.7545 and 2.9765 on Monday.

In Frankfurt, leading West German share prices edged higher supported by a firmer dollar. French share prices opened narrowly mixed in quiet business while Swiss shares were down.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei Average dropped 109.33 points, or 0.46 per cent, to 23,662.27, extending its 19 point drop on Monday.

"The market has been preoccupied with nothing but the release of US trade data," said one dealer at a major US bank in Tokyo.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng share index shed 0.52 of a point to 2,223.04, according to preliminary figures. Brokers there said traditional selling ahead of the lunar New Year depressed prices.

Oil exporters likely to manage respectable growth rate

LONDON, Feb 9. (UPI): This year, like 1987, looks like being developing Asia year, said the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in its World Outlook 1988, published on Friday.

Some slowing down was forecast but China was expected to expand by 8.5 per cent (compared with 11 per cent in 1987), Hong Kong by 9 per cent (14 per cent), Taiwan 8.5 per cent (12.5 per cent), South Korea 7 per cent (11.5 per cent), Singapore 6 per cent (8 per cent) and Thailand 6 per cent (6-7 per cent).

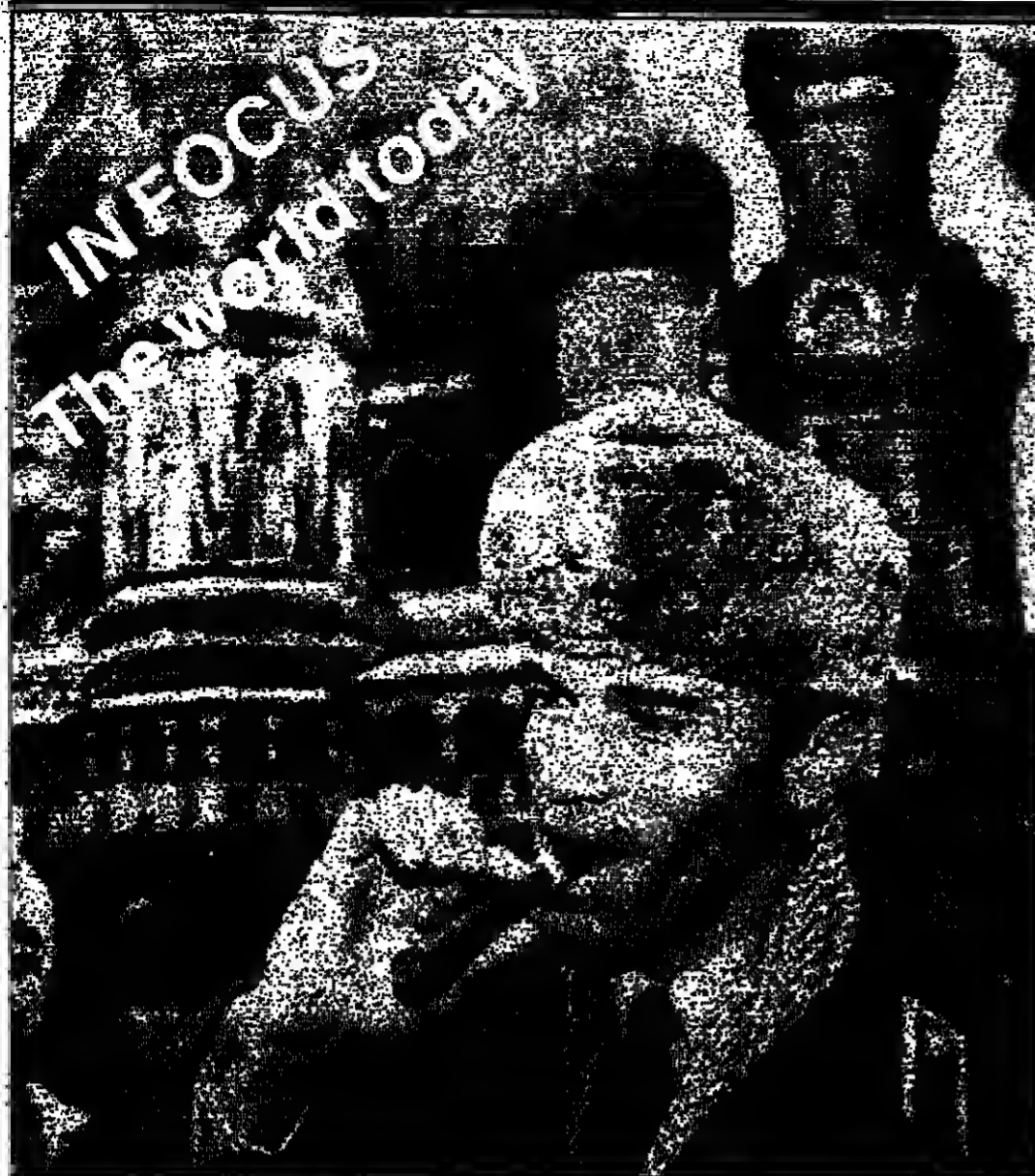
Even the oil exporters were expected to manage respectable growth despite weakening prices. Malaysia should see an increase of 4 per cent and Indonesia 3 to 3.5 per cent, the Outlook said.

Asia's strength is thrown into stronger relief by the general weakness that the EIU foresees for the world economy.

Forecast
The growth of the OECD economies was forecast to remain stuck at 2.4 per cent, the same as 1987.

US growth will subside to 2.3 per cent, but Japanese, and in particular West German growth was not expected to make up for the slowdown in the US economy, the Outlook said.

Japanese domestic demand was forecast to grow by 4.5 per cent, a shade more slowly than in 1987. West Germany's domestic demand was expected to rise by only 1.7 per cent, but GNP (Gross National Product) growth was trimmed back to 2 per cent by its worsening external balance, the Outlook said.



WEARING a Soviet militiaman uniform and sporting an unlikely cigar, bodybuilder-actor Arnold Schwarzenegger talks to passers-by and reporters as he arrives at Red Square in Moscow yesterday to shoot a scene for his upcoming film 'Red Heat' in which he plays a Soviet policeman sent to Chicago on the trail of a drug ring. (Reuters wirephoto)



LARS HOFFMEYER HOELGAARD (left), son of missing Danish Ambassador to Spain, Vagn Hoffmeyer Hoelgaard, consoles his mother Eva (right) as they anxiously await news. The former ambassador, 74, went missing a week ago and police now suspect he has been kidnapped. (Reuters wirephoto)



PROTESTERS from Arab and Palestinian student groups at the University of Maryland demonstrate against the speaking appearance of Israeli Knesset member Meir Kahane on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)



BOYS from a Samba School in Rio de Janeiro prepare a float on Monday that will be used in the upcoming Carnival celebrations. People of all ages in Rio work all year on the entries in this most important celebration of the year. (Reuters wirephoto)



MALAYSIA'S first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, in an interview yesterday at his home in Panang, said that his new party was needed to restore democracy in the face of what he termed a dictatorial government. (Reuters wirephoto)



ROBERT BURROWES, 35, attempted to pay a US\$2,130 tax bill with 100 small trees in Melbourne on Monday because he objected to his money being spent on the nuclear arms race. The tax office refused to accept his offer. (Reuters wirephoto)



BRITAIN'S Princess Anne appears to be behind bars while visiting Wakefield maximum security prison in Wakefield, England on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)



NICARAGUAN Contra leader Adolfo Calero makes a point at a press conference on Monday where rebel leaders said private aid and support from third countries could not match what the US could give. They discussed plans in the wake of Congress's vote to reject continued aid. (Reuters wirephoto)



LIBYAN leader Moammar Khaddafi (right) meets with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid (left) and Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, the President of Tunisia on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)



DELTA rocket carrying a Star Wars payload lifts off the pad into a cloudy sky on Monday. The rocket carrying a payload of sensors and 15 small satellites to serve as make-believe targets was launched after an earlier delay. (Reuters wirephoto)



A MODEL of the Eiffel Tower made out of 120 tons of lemons and oranges sits on display at the Menton Lemons and Oranges Festival in Menton, France yesterday. The theme this year is 'The Wonders of the World.' (Reuters wirephoto)



ACTRESS Joan Collins (left) and her ex-spouse Peter Holm (right) talk to the media in the courtroom on Monday after they settled a long and bitter divorce. Collins agreed to pay Holm a total of \$180,000 including \$98,000 in unpaid fees for managing her finances during their marriage. (Reuters wirephoto)



POLICEMAN Jorgen Steenvinkel stands next to a life-size cardboard cut-out. Danish police have been using the cut-out policeman to discourage drivers from breaking the speed limit. (Reuters wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

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BAYAN, Area 3, 1st floor of a deluxe villa. 2 large bedrooms, 1 saloon, large kitchen, 2 bathrooms, central AC and tele. Tele. 5385569 after 10 am. (AT3-40878-3)

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FARWANIYA, Main Street, accommodation for a Goan or Mangalorean bachelor to share with a Goan family. Tele. 4744150, after 5 pm. (AT4-40896-3)

SHAMIYA, two bedroom flat for Goan bachelors to share with a Goan family. Contact Mr. Satan, Dreamland tailors, above Raja store. (AT4-40918-3)

KEIFAN, Area 7, House 23, Keifan St., for an Indian family or bachelors. Close to busstand and cooperative. Tele. Shahid 4841885. (AT5-40944-2)

ABBASSIYA, one room without any facilities for Indian or Pakistani bachelors with a family. Bus routes 21, 22, 39, 507. Tele. Mr. Sunil 9025770 7.30 am - 4.00 pm. (AT5-40931-3)

SALMIYA, behind Salmiya Fire Station, one independent room with separate kitchen, water and electricity, for an Indian family. Rent KD60/- per month. Tele. Vipan Oberoi 4740801, 7.30 am - 1.00 pm; 4.30 - 7.30 pm. (AT5-40928-3)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7, (behind Ironi shop). One big room with water, electricity and kitchen for a family/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102. Rent KD50. Tele. 5611243. (AT5-40934-3)

FOR SALE

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CHEVROLET Malibu Classic 1981, well maintained, low mileage, in good condition. KD500. Tele. 5334357 after 3 pm. (AT4-40894-2)

1982 Puma convertible, 2+2 Porsche styling, tested to Nov 88. Good condition. KD 900 cash. Tele. Philip Duke 2452880 (8 lines) (AT5-40920-3)

1982 Puma convertible, 2+2 Porsche styling, tested to Nov 88. Good condition. KD 900 cash. Tele. Philip Duke 2452880 (8 lines) (AT5-40920-3)

MITSUBISHI Colt, model 1984, white, automatic in good condition. KD 650 cash. Tele. 4575340 after 1.30 pm. (AT5-40946-3)

CADILLAC Seville, Honda Civic. Both 1977 models insured till Dec and Nov. 1988, KD450 and 200 respectively. Both cars in good condition. Tele. Skandar Khan, 5630557, after 4 pm. (AT4-40899-3)

TOYOTA 4 Runner jeep 1985, A/C, manual, bronze, 28,000 kms, owned from new. Almost showroom condition. KD2200. Tele. 2435907, 8 am - 2 pm. (AT3-40885-3)

PONTIAC 6000LE 1982, automatic, grey, new AC, new tyres and exhaust. A good reliable car. Very good, clean condition. KD825. Tele. David Rogers, 5331387, afternoons. (AT4-40912-3)

ISUZU Gemini, 1986, 42000 kms, red colour, three doors, manual - 5 gears, power steering, second owner, stereo. Excellent condition. Best offer over KD1150. Tele. Stanley, 4837623, 8 am - 1 pm, 4 - 7 pm. (AT4-40910-3)

1983 Toyota Corona, white, in excellent condition, fully automatic. KD 900. Tele. Dennis 4844631. (AT5-40925-2)

MAZDA 323, 1.5 engine, A/C, manual, silver, radio cassette. Good condition. KD 550. Tele. Mr. Bob 4712044, ext 459 7 - 1 pm. (AT5-40933-3)

MITSUBISHI Lancer 1984 good condition, automatic. KD 600. Chev. Caprice Classic 1977 fully automatic in good condition. KD 500. Tele. Anwar 5651346 10 am - 11 pm. (AT5-40937-2)

Miscellaneous

LEAVING Kuwait, for sale, dryer, dish washer. Tele. 4870117. (AT5-40924-3)

DINING table plus 6 chairs, 2 sideboards, cupboard with shelf unit. JVC 14 inch TV, upright Hoover vacuum cleaner, plus other household items, in excellent condition. Tele. 5313729, 3 - 9 pm. (AT4-40916-2)

DOUBLE bedroom furniture, sofa-set, cupboards, 2 ACs, dining table, freezer, cooking range, draughting machine, typewriter. New rent KD120. Oman Street. Tele. Mr. Singh, 2421253. (AT4-40904-3)

JABRIYA, flat for sale with new carpets and curtains, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Rent KD280. Tele. 5331851. (AT4-40895-2)

CONTENTS of a flat — beds, plants, bar & stools, 3-bedroom flat in Bayan, fitted kitchen, large terrace, Europeans only. Tele. 5389174. (AT5-40915-2)

BEHBEHANI compound, old Kuwaiti style villa, No 24 for sale without contents. Tele. Adrian, 5719620/1/2, ext 57, 8 am - 5 pm (Tues-Sat inc). (AT4-40902-3)

LADIES and children's clothes for sale, all sizes. Sunday 14th February, 8.30 am - 3.30 pm. Tele. 5638515, 5336489. (AT4-40903-3)

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, 2 bedroom flat. Rent KD 120 with bedroom set, curtains and carpets KD250. Tele. Floriano 4814188, ext 245. (AT5-40941-2)

JABRIYA, 3-bdr CAC flat, large saloon/dining. Rent KD 260 — incl. water/elect. party furnished. Available 1st April. Also Chev Caprice 79, KD550. Tele. 2455455 text 4293 7-3pm, 5333703 after 4 pm. (AT4-40906-3)

Furniture

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HOUSEHOLD furniture of a complete 2 bedroom apartment behind Sharq fire brigade. Tele. Alex Heynes, 2420549, 3260233 ext. 3167, 8 am - 12 noon. (AT4-40893-2)

MISCELLANEOUS

BEHBEHANI compound, old Kuwaiti style villa, No 24 for sale without contents. Tele. Adrian, 5719620/1/2, ext 57, 8 am - 5 pm (Tues-Sat inc). (AT4-40902-3)

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PASSPORT No. B-157199, Abbas Ali Saifuddeen at International Airport (Ter. No. 1). Tele. Shoukat 4812410 7.30 am - 8 pm or Indian embassy. (AT5-40921-3)

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MAID required, any nationality, for a small Indian family with one child to live-in, behind the Holiday Inn, Farwaniya. Tele. Tony, 4819190, 4819188. (AT3-40881-3)

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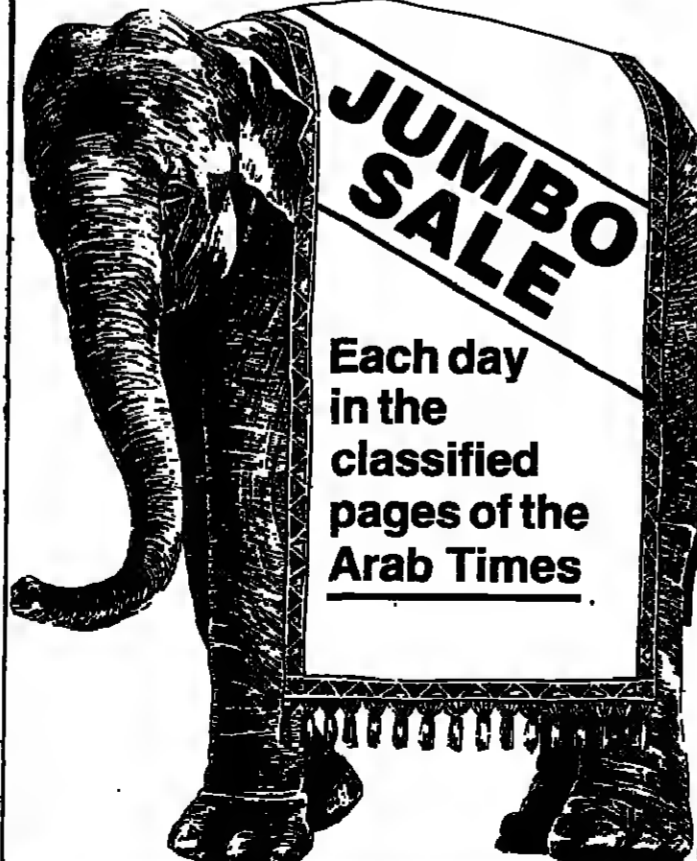
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SPORTS BRIEFS

McColgan sets world record

ORLANDO, Florida, Feb. 9. (AP) Liz Lynch McColgan set a world's best of 30:59 in the Orlando Classic 10-kilometre race on Saturday in 40-degree drizzly weather she called typical of her native Dundee, Scotland.

Swiss wins marathon

OHITA, Japan, Feb. 9. (AP) Bruno Lafraichi of Switzerland moved ahead of Japan's Futoshi Shinohara about 100 metres (330 feet) from the finish line on Sunday to win the 37th Beppu-Onita Mamichi marathon.

Lafraichi was clocked at two hours, 11 minutes, 58 seconds — two seconds ahead of Shinohara's 2:12:00.

Maradona to play in Berlin

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 9. (Reuters) Diego Maradona will captain world champions Argentina in a four-team soccer tournament in Berlin, his agent said yesterday.

Guillermo Coppola, on holiday in Argentina, told reporters Maradona had confirmed he was available for the tournament to be played on March 31 and April 2.

West Germany will host the tournament in which the Soviet Union and Sweden will also participate.

Hurdles record

MOSCOW, Feb. 9. (AP) Soviet athlete Eva Sokolova broke the world indoor record for the 100-metre hurdles, then improved on her own performance and broke her own mark, the Tass news agency said.

Tass said Sokolova, a 25-year-old student, set the record by running the 100-metre hurdles in 12.91 seconds on Sunday at a Soviet-Finnish track meet in Leningrad.

That was 0.21 seconds faster than the former world indoor mark set by Annelie Erhardt of East Germany, Tass said.

Rotterdam tennis

ROTTERDAM, Feb. 9. (Reuters) Michiel Schapers was the sole survivor of a trio of Dutch entrants to make it through the first round of the men's singles in the Rotterdam Grand Prix tennis tournament here yesterday.

In a gruelling two-hour, 15-minute match he beat American Chip Hooper 2-6, 7-6, 6-4. Earlier, Christian Saccau of West Germany beat Tom Nijssen 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 and Marian Vajda of Czechoslovakia beat Menno Oosting 6-4, 6-4.

Gas explosion

CALGARY, Feb. 9. (Reuters) A gas explosion damaged the main Olympic bowl in Calgary's McMahon Stadium yesterday — five days before its lighting will signal the opening of the Winter Games.

No one was injured in the blast. Organising Committee spokeswoman Terry Bullock told Reuters, but the bowl suffered minor damage.

McMahon called up

LONDON, Feb. 9. (AP) Liverpool midfielder Steve McMahon yesterday was rewarded for some inspirational club performances by being called up for England for next week's exhibition soccer game against Israel in Tel Aviv.

England manager Bobby Robson has named his strongest available squad for the Feb. 17 game, although he is missing center-back Terry Butcher, who is recovering from a broken leg.

Dope test

LONDON, Feb. 9. (Reuters) Cavies Clow, current joint favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Britain's premier steeplechase, has failed a dope test, the Jockey Club said yesterday.

David Pipe, Jockey Club public relations officer, said an illegal substance had been found in a sample taken from Cavies Clow following a race at Wincanton on January 14.

Coach sacked

SEVILLE, Spain, Feb. 9. (Reuters) John Mortimore, English coach of Real Betis, has been sacked midway through his first season with the Spanish soccer club.

Club president Gerardo Martinez said the board decided last night that Mortimore should go.

Bridge

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:

N/S
1st Nabil Adel & Lolita Marthel
2nd Ely Lannerts & Doris Klaber
3rd Margaret Maynard & Daphne El
S/W
1st Peg Adderley & Mandy Clarke
2nd Bianca Morosini & Fatima Abdul
3rd Lili Akel & Midge McKenzie

FISA MIDDLE EAST RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP TO START TOMORROW

Bond hopes for a winning start with AlHajri

DOHA: Two weeks ago, Rothmans star Saeed Al Hajri and British navigator Steve Bond were strangers, but they are hoping to launch a winning partnership when the 1988 Fisa Middle East Rally Championship gets under way in Qatar at the weekend.

Bond is the 31-year-old Englishman who has had the task of helping Al Hajri settle quickly behind the wheel of a new car in practice for the rugged Nasir Bin Khalid and Sons Qatar International Rally starting on Thursday.

Brilliant

After experiencing the skills of the brilliant Qatari during the warm-up for the 850-km battle across the desert plains around Doha, Bond is expecting a successful competitive debut for the Rothmans Audi Quattro.

"Before joining up with Saeed,

I had heard a lot about him in Europe. Now I know what a very good driver he is," Bond said yesterday.

"The Audi is a completely different car to the Rothmans Porsche he used to drive, and a totally different driving technique is needed. But Saeed is getting to grips with it, and I don't see any reason why the car can't do very well for us."

Wasted

With his co-driver from last year, Irishman Ronan Morgan, now partnering Toyota star Mohammed Bin Sulayem, Al Hajri has wasted no time in forming a good understanding with Bond, who has 13 years of rallying experience.

"Steve is a very good navigator, and I am extremely happy with him," said the two-



Al Hajri times Middle East champion, who is determined to snatch the regional crown back from Sulayem.

Sulayem

Doubts have been expressed about Al Hajri's chances of winning this year's title because Audi's have a poor record in Middle East rallying, something Sulayem can vouch for following the trauma of the wheel of a privately-entered Quattro in Qatar last year.

But Al Hajri's new car has been prepared by UK Audi specialist David Sutton, the recently-appointed manager of the Rothmans Rally team and the man who guided flying Finn Ari Vatanen to his 1981 World Championship triumph.

Emphasised

"David Sutton's mechanics have been building these cars for six years, and nobody knows them better than he does," emphasised Bond. "There is no reason why a well-prepared

Quattro cannot win here."

With Al Hajri and Sulayem expected to continue their fight for regional supremacy at the front of the rally, men like Lebanon's Michel Saleh and Qatar's Abbas Al Mosawi will be pushing hard to try and separate the Middle East's top two drivers.

Saleh and Mosawi will both be hoping for better fortunes in Qatar this time. They each went out of last year's rally with mechanical problems early on the first day.

Casualty

This year's first casualty in Doha is already known. Jan Churchhill, who runs the Forest Rally School in Wales, has had to withdraw his Subaru 1800 AWD which cannot be prepared in time, reducing the starting field to 23 cars, 18 of which are Qatari-entered.

27 drivers post qualifying speeds

Parsons leads in second round of time trials

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida, Feb. 9. (AP) Phil Parsons is working on being patient this week.

Parsons, 30, the younger brother of former Winston Cup champion and Daytona 500 winner Benny Parsons, isn't thinking about winning the \$1.5-million race on Sunday.

Right now, he's more concerned with just getting into the 40-car field.

Parsons led the second round of time trials yesterday as one of 27 drivers who posted qualifying speeds on the 2.5-mile (4 km) oval at Daytona International Speedway.

Improved

The Denver, North Carolina, resident was one of only a handful of those drivers who improved on their first-round qualifying laps.

Parsons, who did a 188.143

mph (302.778 kph) lap on Saturday with a missing engine, improved to 190.872 (307.170) yesterday.

"That puts us in the top 12 speeds and virtually assures us of a starting spot in the race, no matter what happens in the qualifying races on Thursday," Parsons said.

Daytona qualifying is unique, with three rounds of time trials — the last of which is today — setting only the front row for Sunday's race and the lineups for Thursday's twin 125-mile (201-km) qualifying races.

Ken Schrader won the pole with a lap of 193.823 (311.919), while Davey Allison took the outside spot on the front row at 193.311 (311.095) in leading Saturday's qualifying session.

The qualifying races will determine positions three through 30, with the rest of the 40-car field

filled from the three days of time trials.

Laps

Besides Schrader and Allison, 32 drivers stood on their first-day qualifying laps yesterday. Of the drivers that chose to try to improve on their first-day efforts, most went slower.

"The barometer was a lot higher yesterday than it was Saturday, plus the temperature was higher," Parsons said. "We knew we'd probably be slower than the 192 we got in practice, but we knew no matter what the weather we'd improve (from Saturday). We just wanted to make sure we had a good enough speed in case some big problem comes up on Thursday."

Harry Gant, who failed to post a time Saturday due to a blown engine, was second fastest yesterday at 188.873 mph (303.953 kph), while Dale Jarrett

improved from 185.632 to 187.739 (298.738 to 302.128).

One of the drivers having problems was Alan Kulwicki, the 1986 Rookie of the Year, who slipped from 185.663 on Saturday to 184.848 (298.787 to 297.476).

Practiced

"Every time we come to qualify, the car slows down," Kulwicki said. "We practiced qualifying exactly the way the car is set up and ran three-quarters of a second quicker. We changed nothing. I can't figure out what the problem is."

Michael Waltrip, the younger brother of three-time Winston Cup champion Darrell Waltrip, was even more upset after slipping from 186.289 to 167.986 (299.795 to 270.339) because of an engine problem.

"We're just gonna have to get it back tomorrow," Waltrip said.

Athletes arrive in Calgary for Winter Olympics

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 9. (AP) More athletes, including US bobsledders and speed skaters, converged on Calgary yesterday for the Winter Olympics, just ahead of a storm that was expected to drop as much as eight inches of snow in the nearby mountains.

Of the 1,684 athletes registered to compete in the Games had arrived in this southern Alberta town and oil centre of 650,000. The Games begin on Saturday.

Along with athletes and team officials, tourists by the thousands also crowded into town, some of whom would need help from a crisis committee hastily put together by the city to deal with problems arising from a booking agency scandal.

Session

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch also officially opened the IOC's 93rd session yesterday evening with a speech tough on drugs and easy-going on boycotters.

An inch or two of snow fell over Calgary on Sunday night. Environment Canada, this country's equivalent to the National Weather Service, said Arctic air would drop afternoon temperatures to around 0 degrees (-18 Celsius), and as much as 8 inches of snow could fall overnight in the mountain areas.

With temperatures expected to rise back above the freezing level by tomorrow, there was a potential problem at the two Rocky Mountain ski venues — Canmore, site of Nordic events, and Nakiska, site of Alpine

events. John Rule, venue chairman at Canmore said a few inches of new snow would not be a problem, "as long as we don't get a big dump."

Trails

"If too much snow falls on the ski trails, it will have to be either removed or packed down."

"We're always packing it, walking it and grooming it," Alpine venue chairman Lou MacEachern said of the ski trails. "That's just part of the game. This won't be enough snow to give us any trouble."

MacEachern said the Alpine trails were ready for racing. "We would have liked to have races two days ago," MacEachern said. "It's beautiful, just beautiful. This is just what we want every visitor to this country to see so they can understand what we're all about."

The city of Calgary, meantime, formed a committee to help with housing and transportation for visitors stranded by the local booking agency World Marketing Services Inc. Officials estimated that about 3,000 tourists bought tickets, rooms and transportation through the agency, whose local representative disappeared last week.

Police are investigating to see whether there were any laws broken.

No idea

"Individuals may start arriving and have no idea that anything's gone wrong," Olympic Housing Bureau manager John Varga said.

Frank King, chairman of the Calgary Organising Committee, said the company went broke.



The Canmore Nordic Centre, site of the Nordic ski events is pictured from the air. The biathlon shooting range is at bottom left and the cross-country finish line is in the centre. (Reuters wirephoto)

Most of the 2,500 Americans coming to Calgary on package tours sold by Olson Travelworld Ltd. of California, official US ticket agency, had their local reservations made by World Marketing. Bob Fleming, head of the Calgary Tourist and Convention Bureau, said hotel space and tickets have been reconfirmed for most US groups.

Officials said there also had

been some double booking by World Marketing.

Calgary police Supt Len Esler said his department had interviewed Richard Allan, World Marketing's operations director who disappeared from his office last week.

"We're not at the point where we can make a decision whether there's a civil or criminal problem," Esler said.

Prince Albert is lending a touch of royalty

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 9. (AP) He is formally called His Serene Highness, Prince Albert of Monaco, but as he hurtles down the harrowing bobsled track at 85 mph (135 kph), his heart pounding and the ice walls a blur, he is anything but serene.

"You feel the air and you feel the speed and you're sort of hit by every corner," he said yesterday, his voice quickening with excitement. "It's all going pretty fast in front of you, but you know where you are at all times."

Suspended

His blue eyes are wide open and his breath is suspended for most of the near-mile (kilometre) run, and when he roars into some hairpin turns — "when you first get the G-force," he said — it's a little hard to focus for a moment.

The son of the late Princess Grace and heir to the throne occupied by his father, Prince Rainier, slim, young Albert is lending a touch of royalty to these Winter Olympics in a most unroyal sport.

Bobsledding, which began as a raucous diversion for big-bellied beer drinkers in the Alps and upstate New York, has evolved into a high-tech, high-speed adventure aboard sleek,



Prince Albert at the Calgary airport.

aerodynamically crafted sleds.

Still, it is not quite the sport of kings... yet. Just of princes.

Albert, a month shy of 30, is just one of the guys this week in the Olympic village, although he has more responsibilities than his teammates and competitors.

Youngest

He is one of the youngest members of the International Olym-

pic Committee, comprised of businessmen, government leaders, former athletes and a few other royals, and has been busy attending the group's 93rd session. He is the only active IOC member competing in the Games and the first since Finnish yachtsman Peter Tallberg in 1960.

Other obligations also take up the prince's time. As president of the Monaco Red Cross Society, he met with 19 schoolchildren yesterday as part of a cultural exchange project with the Canadian Red Cross Society.

"I think he's really nice and very handsome," said 11-year-old Cara Stone, nervously twist-

ing her blonde curls as she watched Europe's most eligible bachelor.

When the annual meeting is over, Albert will move from a hotel suite to the cramped quarters of the Olympic village, joining his teammates and athletes of other nations.

Live

"I think in order to get a fully Olympic experience, one has to live in the village, and I'm certainly looking forward to that," he said.

The prince, 6-feet (1.8 metre) tall, 168 pounds (75 kg), is no newcomer to sports, nor is he here as a mere dilettante.

THE INDIAN SCHOOL KUWAIT

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Please contact office of the Director, The Indian School, Salmiya, Tel: 5637477 on working days between 8-11 am and 4-6 pm

HON. SECRETARY

Cash leads Australia to victory over Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 9. (Reuters) Pat Cash overpowered Francisco "Pancho" Maciel 6-2, 6-7, 5-6, 6-2 yesterday to give Australia a 3-2 victory over Mexico in their first round world group Davis Cup tie.

Falling back on his powerful serve when his groundstrokes failed him, Cash demoralised Maciel and the rowdy local crowd to carry Australia into the second round against France in April.

"I felt that I would win all the time," Cash said after the match in Mexico city's Club Aleman.

Confident

"I wasn't going to lose, no way," said the confident Australian, ranked seventh in the world.

The Mexicans, who had hoped that Maciel would pull off a miraculous upset against the Wimbledon champion, are now faced with a relegation playoff

against Switzerland in April. With the tie level at 2-2, Cash and Maciel split the first two sets of the final match on Sunday before it was suspended due to darkness.

When the match resumed yesterday, Maciel took a quick lead when he broke Cash's serve in the first game as the crowd chanted "Mexico Mexico."

But before Maciel — and the crowd — could build any momentum, Cash broke right back to level the third set.

Cash, who was able to hold his serve for the remainder of the match, delivered eight aces, including six in the crucial third set.

"I think I served very well, therefore he couldn't put me under pressure on my volleys," Cash said.

Maciel appeared to tire after losing the third set as the Australian found his rhythm.

Maleeva and Potter advance

DALLAS, Feb. 9. (Reuters) Third-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria and sixth-seeded American Barbara Potter both advanced yesterday to the second round of the \$250,000 Dallas Women's Tennis tournament with straight set victories.

Maleeva ousted Hu Na of China 6-2, 6-3, while the strong-serving Potter defeated compatriot Kathrin Keil 6-2, 6-2.

Top-seeded American Martina Navratilova, going after her eighth title here, will play her first round match against countrywoman Camille Benjamin today.

Maleeva kept Hu Na, world ranked 50, on the defensive throughout the first set but had trouble maintaining her consistent baseline play, falling behind 1-3 in the second set.

Advantage

Maleeva, rated eighth in the world, took advantage of Hu Na's weak second serve in the second set, breaking it in the sixth and eighth games to close out the 73 minute victory.

Said Maleeva, "It was hard getting back to tennis after a two month break. I just said to myself, I'm not going to leave the court without winning the match."

Eighth-seeded Natalia Zvereva fought off a second-set comeback by Robin White of the United States and captured a 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 decision yesterday in the first round.



Zvereva: victory

Zvereva, the No. 1 junior player in the world, used service breaks in the fourth game of the third set to take control of the match, then broke White again in the eighth game for the victory.

Leads

Zvereva, 16, leads a four-woman team from the Soviet Union which is competing on the Virginia Slims tour for the first time on a regular basis since the 1970s. The Soviets are using the Slims circuit to prepare for the Olympic Games competition this summer in Seoul, South Korea.

Zvereva, speaking in halting

English, said the attention being given the Soviet delegation is welcome.

"It's good for Russia," she said. "Usually it's American players that the people are interested in back home. We're ready for the attention."

Zvereva started fast, charging to a 5-0 lead with service breaks in the second and fourth games. Zvereva, whose baseline, lobbing style confounded White early, closed out the set when White netted a backhand approach in a game that went to three deuces.

Budd's participation in cross country race opposed

WELLINGTON, Feb. 9. (Reuters) The organisers of the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland say they oppose South African-born runner Zola Budd's participation in the World Cross Country Championships next month.

Sir Earl Richardson, chairman of the Organising Board, said in a statement yesterday that it would be in the best interests of the Games if Budd did not compete in the championships in Auckland on March 26.

Statement

The statement followed a board meeting attended by Foreign Minister Russell Marshall.

There are fears Budd's presence in Auckland could lead to boycotts of the 1990 Games.

The government has said Budd is not welcome in New Zealand but that she cannot be barred because she holds a British passport. Britons do not require visas for stays of up to three months.

"We have a duty to state in the strongest terms possible, our opposition to Zola Budd competing in New Zealand next month," Richardson added.

He said nationality rules for the 1990 Games had been tightened at a Games Federation meeting in London in January but the changes did not appear to have been adopted by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), the ruling body for the cross country championships.

No choice

"Unfortunately, we seem to have no choice but to watch the IAAF re-arrange deckchairs on the Titanic, but I want to make it perfectly clear that the Commonwealth Games is not prepared to go down with the ship," Richardson said.

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Nabisco Grand Prix tennis tournament

LYON, France, Feb. 9. (AP) Jeremy Bates of Great Britain beat French player Eric Winogradsky yesterday on the first day of play at the \$200,000 Nabisco Grand Prix tennis tournament in Lyon.

Bates took the match 7-6, 6-3 in afternoon men's singles play. Doubles play starts tomorrow.

In other matches, West German Dami Kar'ie beat compatriot Wolfgang Popp 6-4, 6-4. Frenchman Philippe Pech beat Italian Gianluca Pozzi 6-3, 3-6, 7-5. Frenchman Jerome Potier beat American Blaine Willenborg 7-6, 4-6, 6-0; and Argentine Eduardo Masso beat Remy Gilbert 6-1, 7-6.

In later matches, American Marc

SPORTS

EMBUREY MAKES A COSTLY DECISION

Shell XI beat England by five wickets

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand, Feb 9. (Reuters): New Zealand's Shell XI beat England by five wickets today after acting English captain John Emburey made two decisions, one costly and the other gallant.

The costly move was to declare England's second innings closed at 165 for nine wickets, setting the host side a generous target of 270 runs for victory off a maximum 78 overs.

They did so with 11 balls to spare, with Tunny Blain making a rapid, undefeated 44 towards the end.

Sportsmanship

But Emburey displayed gallant sportsmanship in the 29th over when Andrew Jones, the real hero of the Shell innings, was recalled to the crease after he had been given out for one.

Jones, who went on to make 72, gloved a Phillip DeFreitas delivery down the leg-side and wicketkeeper Jack Richards, tumbling in his left, gathered the ball. The batsman was given out

by umpire Roger McHarg but as he started to walk Emburey stepped in.

Emburey said afterwards: "Some of our fielders, including Neil Fairbrother at square leg, thought the ball had carried, but I and the other two slips all saw it bounce. Jack didn't know."

Called out

"I hadn't seen the umpire give him out, just that Jones was walking—so I called out to him to stay put."

Jones was dropped at deep midwicket when on 15 and went on to anchor the Shell innings.

He put on 46 for the third wicket with Mark Greatbatch and then shared in a 94-run partnership with Chris Kuggeleijn who made 46 before being caught by Richards off Paul Jarvis.

That brought Blain to the crease and he quickly set about wiping off the remaining 64 runs needed to win, with his 44 coming from only 41 balls and including seven fours and a six.

Jones was caught and bowled

by Emburey shortly before the end but his innings was just the tonic he needed in preparation for the first Test against New Zealand starting on Friday.

England team manager Mickey Stewart was not too perturbed at the loss.

"We did not bat as well as we should have but we played a big part in what turned out to be a very good game of cricket," Stewart said.

"When we come to places like this we have some duty to entertain people. I would rather have a game like this than some of those miserable four-day games we had in Pakistan," he added.

Scores: England 243 for six declared and 165 for nine declared. Shell XI 139 and 271 for five.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings 243 for six wickets declared (T. Robinson 74) SHELL XI first innings 139 (P. Jarvis four for 24)

ENGLAND second innings (overnight) 164 (for eight)

C. Broad c Horne b Barrett 16

Moxon c McSweeney b Kuggeleijn 5
N. Fairbrother b Barrett 15
W. Athey c Jones b Millmow 24
N. Radford b Kuggeleijn 23
R. Robinson lbw b Kuggeleijn 4
Richards c McSweeney b Millmow 3
DeFreitas c McSweeney b Millmow 0
J. Emburey c Millmow b Brown 32
P. Jarvis not out 36
G. Dilley not out 6
Extras (nb-5 lb-2) 7
Fall of wickets: 1-6 2-33 3-38 4-79 5-83 6-91 7-91 8-97 9-164.

Bowling: Millmow 15-2-33 3-38 4-79 (nb-1), Kuggeleijn 19-5-47-3 (nb-2), Barrett 12-2-66-2 (nb-2), Brown 2-1-1-1.

SHELL XI second innings

P. Horne c and b DeFreitas 25
R. Vance lbw b Radford 24
A. Jones c and b Emburey 72
M. Greatbatch run out 28
C. Kuggeleijn c Richards b Jarvis 46
T. Blain not out 44
E. McSweeney not out 5
Extras (nb-1 lb-4 nb-11 w-1) 17
TOTAL (for five wickets) 271

Fall of wickets: 1-59 2-66 3-112 4-206 5-260.

Bowling: Dilley 17-1-32-0 (nb-1), DeFreitas 14-1-58-1 (nb-8 w-1), Emburey 18-4-69-1, Jarvis 12-3-36-1, Radford 15-3-49-1 (nb-2).
Shell XI won by five wickets.



Andrew Jones clips the ball past Jack Richards yesterday.

Victoria draw with Sri Lanka

MELBOURNE, Feb 9. (Reuters): Victoria drew a four-day cricket match with Sri Lanka despite a 199-run partnership between opener Gary Watts and Jamie Siddons today.

The state side failed by 77 runs to reach the 374 runs needed for victory on the final day.

At stumps Victoria were 297 for five wickets after Sri Lanka had declared their second innings at the overnight 362 for six.

Victoria, needing to score just over five runs an over to win, were in with an outside chance while swashbuckling Siddons was at the wicket with the steadier Watts.

Partnership

Their 199-run partnership took just 129 minutes as Siddons led the way with 12 fours and one six in his 103. Watts, who had a 72-minute start on Siddons, was out shortly after the number four for 122.

Sri Lanka had immediate suc-

cess on the resumption in the morning when Dav Whatmore was dismissed for a duck in the second over of Victoria's second innings.

Captain Dean Jones started aggressively and fine running between the wickets helped Jones and Watts add 50 runs from just 11 overs.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA first innings 157
VICTORIA first innings 146
SRI LANKA second innings 362 for six declared

VICTORIA second innings

D. Whatmore bow b Ramaniyake 0
G. Watts b Ramaniyake 122
D. Jones b Ramaniyake 35
J. Siddons c Mahanama b Ramaniyake 183
M. Hughes lbw b A de Silva 9
P. Young not out 9
A. Dodemaidi not out 14
Extras (lb-8 w-1 nb-5) 14
Total (for five wickets) 297

Bowling: Ramaniyake 13-1-68-8, Ramaniyake 10-0-52-1, Ramaniyake 20-1-66-3 (1w), Jegarathnam 9-0-41-0 (3w), A. de Silva 18-1-70-1 (2w).

Result: match drawn.

Jahangir Khan wants to make 1988 his year again

JEDDAH, Feb 9. (AP): Pakistan's Jahangir Khan, the uncrowned king of squash, said today that he intends to make 1988 his year again.

After enjoying an uninterrupted reign at the top for over five years, the powerful Khan proved fallible last year against a countryman, Jansher Khan.

"Competition is getting tougher, day by day. And it would be difficult for a person to stay on at the top for a number of years," said Khan in an interview with the Associated Press upon his arrival here for a six-day visit and a series of exhibition matches. Matches will be with local players, with one against Sohail Qaiser, a former world junior champion from Pakistan.

"I've had a good many years, and could have held on but for injuries and some key mistakes during the string of defeats last year. But this year it is going to be different," he vowed.

Jahangir, whose name literally translated means conqueror of the world, hopes to storm back to his customary place in the squash world by setting a personal landmark of seven British Open titles in succession, which no one has achieved so far.

He already has six straight British Open titles along with the five world championships from a streak of successes between April 1981 and November 1986. Jansher still stands in the way of his quest for the year.

Hogan spins W. Australia to victory

HOBART, Feb 9. (Reuters): Spinner Tom Hogan returned from the cricket wilderness to bowl Western Australia to victory over Tasmania on the final day of their Sheffield Shield match today.

Hogan captured six for 57 in 23.3 overs in his first game with Western Australia since spending two summers away with the Australian rebel team in South Africa.

Set a target of 325 runs from 87 overs for victory, Tasmania were all out in their second innings for 209.

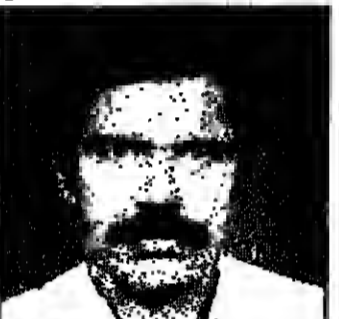
Evergreen trounce Kifco to lift Al Athla trophy

By Yunus Chaudhry

AN all round performance by Man-of-the-Match Ejaz Ahmed led Evergreen to a thumping 51 runs victory over Kifco in the Al Athla Champions Cricket Trophy in its inaugural year at Sabah Al Salem area ground on Friday.

Kifco, after winning the toss, asked Evergreen to bat first. Baber, who has been in tremen-

Bright Stars crush YMCA



M. Ali: 95 runs

BRIGHT STARS beat YMCA by six wickets in a Capri Trophy match played at Fahaleh ground on Friday.

YMCA won the toss and elected to bat first. They opened their innings through Bashir and Arif to the bowling of M. Ali and Ahmed.

M. Ali got an early breakthrough when Bashir was caught behind by Ajit for a duck. Then Rafiq joined Arif but was out for 11. Ahmed, Nadeem, Khalid, and Tariq batted effectively and their wickets kept falling regularly. They were bundled out for a paltry score of 106 runs in 25.2 overs. Arif hit 28 runs with 3 fours.

Bright Stars requiring only about 3.5 runs per over for victory were given a sound start by Ahmed and M. Ali. The first wicket fell at 39 runs. Ahmed was bowled by Raju after scoring 16 runs. Ajit also was out without score. Then Khalid joined M. Ali and both kept on hammering YMCA bowlers at will. M. Ali left at 95 when victory was very much in sight. His personal contribution was 51 runs which included 3 mighty sixes and five hits to the fence.

Next came Arun and was bowled by Satyan for six. Nawah had only to watch Khalid hitting 2 consecutive fours to make the score level on the next delivery. Khalid took another two runs to complete the six wicket victory for Bright Stars.



Asad Baig receiving the trophy from Tariq Al-Naqib.

dous form this season, opened the innings with Inam. The latter was unlucky to be run out after scoring only six when Evergreen total stood at 10.

Then Ejaz, who normally opens the innings, joined Baber and the two mixing caution with aggression steadied the boat. When both looked in complete command and Evergreen total reached 99 in the 15th over, Baber was caught by Riflat off Aqeel for 51.

Marvellous He hit a six and six fours in his marvellous knock. There was a mini-collapse when Ejaz left at 146 after being nicely caught and bowled by Shehzad for 57 glorious runs which included five hits to the fence.

Razzak was out for 26 and Jawaid Masood for only three to leave Evergreen in a precarious

situation of 155 for five. Then Shabbir and Rashid Ansari, putting their heads down and batting with remarkable understanding propped up the innings with a partnership of 121 runs for the sixth wicket.

Shabbir was out for 49 but Rashid Ansari, in a magnificent batting display went on to make 62 precious runs which included three boundaries and an effortless six. At the end of allotted 45 overs, Evergreen's total had reached a much respectable 281 for nine.

For Kifco, Amin was the most successful bowler who took three wickets after giving away only four runs in two overs. Aqeel two for 53, Riflat one for 45, and Shehzad two for 57 were the other successful bowlers.

Kifco, requiring 6.2 runs per over for victory, opened their

innings through Pervaiz and Nasir to the bowling of Chris and Rashid Ansari. Chris made the early in-roads with the new ball when he had both the openers caught behind by Ejaz in the fourth over to make Kifco 18 for two.

This double breakthrough put a lot of pressure on the next batsmen Maqsood Akhtar and Shahid Pervaiz who started to build their innings with one's and two's. Chris again inflicted another telling blow in his last allotted over when he removed Maqsood for 30 with Kifco's total at 79.

This brought skipper Aqeel Ashraf to join Shahid. The two showed remarkable fightback by putting on 73 runs for the fourth wicket partnership which was only broken when Shahid, who was batting with a runner was run out. He hit two fours and a six in his courageous knock of 62.

Then Ejaz, who came on to bowl, again stole the limelight by removing Aqeel 49, Amin 11, Azam 10, Riflat 13 and Shahid Butt 11 to get Kifco all out for 230 in the 39th over. He gave away only 20 runs while taking these five precious wickets which, along with his 57 runs and two catches behind the wickets earned him the Man-of-the-Match award.

Chris three for 35 and Rafique Butt one for 42 were the other successful bowlers as Evergreen cruised to a comfortable victory by 51 runs.

Quaid-e-Millat beat Rangers

By Rizaz Chaudhry

QUAID-E-MILLAT became more optimistic of winning Burud Trophy by beating Rangers in the morning and out-shining Falcon in the afternoon at the EPI ground on Friday.

Against Rangers QMCC amassed 25 runs in 28 allotted overs after losing nine wickets. Hameed 49, Raza 27, Sadaqat 25, Ishfaq 25 and Munir 24 were the batsmen to contribute towards the total.

For Rangers Mohan and Sharma bowled well taking three wickets each. Replaying, Rangers were skittled-out for 136 runs only.

Raza was destroyer-in-chief taking five wickets including a

hat-trick giving away only one run in just nine balls. Sajid 42 and Manzoor 39 were the only batsmen to offer any resistance.

In the afternoon Raza displayed his batting skills by scoring 49 runs as Sohail 52 and Qamar 49 helped QMCC score 183 before being all-out.

Syed Anjum Raza with three wickets and Bader, Danny and Merwyn Lewis accounted for two batsmen each. While Sohail, Ansar, Munir, Jamil and Sadaqat chipped-in with a piece each. For Falcon only Sajad with 45 showed the will to face the bowling. QMCC had lost only one game of the ten played so far with four to be played yet. Their nearest rivals Falcon had lost three matches.



Qamar: 49 not out



Raza: hat-trick

Crown rout Oxford



Asad Zubair: fine spell

CROWN rout Oxford by 83 runs at the Hilton ground on Friday. Crown won the toss and elected to bat. They were soon in trouble when skipper Ejaz was caught at first slip of the bowling of Ali in the very first over.

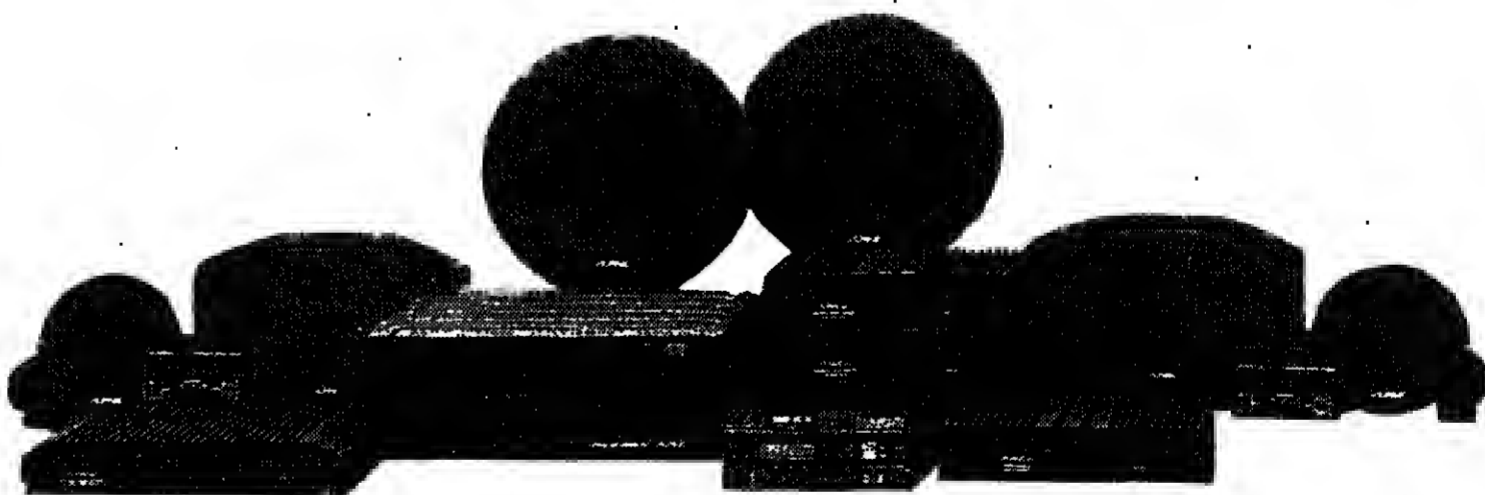
Then Mukesh joined Zaheer and hit up 67. The partnership's 103 runs put Crown in a comfortable position.

Asad Zubair and Ashraf played some brilliant strokes and make a quick 50 runs for third wicket. Crown were all out for 173 runs in their allotted 25 overs.

In reply Oxford started the inning with confidence but due to accurate bowling of Mukesh, Ejaz and Asad Zubair Oxford were all out at the score of 90 runs only.

Mukesh and Ejaz both took three wickets and Asad Zubair two.

Unless you can fit an entire orchestra on your dash-board - it's not really worth listening to music at all.

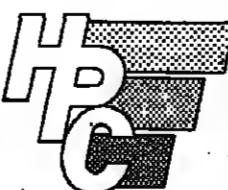


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ARAB TIMES

Published by

Dir Al-Sayid

Editor-in-Chief

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editorial Office

Arab Times Building

P.O. Box 2270

13023 Safat, Kuwait

Phone

222222

Telex

22332

Telephone

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4746780

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Annual Subscription

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